

Iran President pledges release of four Britons

President Bani-Sadr of Iran has told 'The Times' that the four Britons detained in a Tehran jail will definitely be freed. He said that documents which had been thought to indicate that they were spying gave no proof of such activities. No charges against the four have been made. They were arrested in August.

'Documents not proof they were spies'

From Tony Allaway
Beirut, Feb 5
President Bani-Sadr of Iran has said that four Britons held in a Tehran prison will be freed. In an interview with 'The Times' in the southern war zone of Khuzestan, he said that the documents which had been thought to indicate that they were spying gave no proof of such activities. He said: "I have told me they will be freed."
He added: "It has been said that there were some documents that they were spying. But recently they said the documents do not prove they were spies."
The four Britons, Dr John Coleman, his wife Audrey and Miss Jean Waddell, all missionaries, and Mr Andrew Pyke, a businessman, were arrested last August at the height of anti-British feeling in Iran. They were believed to be held in Tehran's Evin prison but so far no charges against them have been announced.
The President said he personally hoped they would be freed "and go anywhere they liked."
He strongly criticized Britain for refusing to supply military equipment that Iran had paid for as a result of the detentions.
"If some Iranians have been imprisoned in your country do you think it fair if we hold up goods that belong to you and keep them? There is a wrong thing going on in the world in that one bad action is answered by another, after crisis for human beings in the world."
The President saved his harshest criticism for the French and their decision to supply Mirage jets to Iraq. "That was a hostile action. It is not in France's interests to make a nation its enemy," he said.

In a reference to Iraq President Bani-Sadr added: "This will only satisfy the aggressive fascists. We hope the French nation puts pressure on its Government, of course we have protested and we will protest again."
The President was circumspect about the situation on the war fronts but repeatedly indicated that Iran's war effort was suffering from a shortage of materials.
"We are not getting ammunition or equipment from any part of the world and we thus have to prepare our war plans in a way that we lose as little ammunition and weapons as possible. If we had had the necessary weapons I could even have told you in how many days the war would have been over."

The President implicitly acknowledged that the Iranian counter-offensive launched last month had bogged down. "Did you expect us to overcome them in one attack?" he asked.
He said that Iranian forces were involved in a third phase of the battle which is trying to weaken and wear down the Iraqi forces.

The President was even more circumspect about the internal political situation. Speaking of fundamentalist newspapers launched unprovokedly sharp attacks on him, he would not be drawn into an opinion on the present Government.
Asked if he had put pressure on Ayatollah Khomeini to replace Mr Muhammad Ali Rajai, the Prime Minister, with a more moderate figure, he said: "I can't put pressure on (the ayatollah)... I told him what was my belief and ideas."

Opposition rallied, page 6

PLO leader has vision of a 'democratic oasis in the Middle East' for the Palestinian people

Mr Arafat offers to visit Moscow in search of an Afghan solution

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, Feb 5

Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, is prepared to act as a mediator in the Afghan conflict, if necessary by going to Moscow to propose a solution. In a long interview with 'The Times' he has also declared that if a Palestinian state was to be created, it would be a liberal democracy with free elections.
"A democratic oasis in the Middle East" as he expansively put it. The new Palestine would then be ready to enter a special relationship with Jordan.

The PLO leader, clad in his ubiquitous black and white kuffiyeh headscarf and wearing on his hip the loaded revolver that has distinguished his appearance for the past 13 years, was giving his first interview to a British newspaper since President Reagan took office. He said that he had been "astonished" at Mr Reagan's most recent condemnation of the PLO as terrorists and revealed that he had instructed the PLO's representative at the

United Nations to send a memorandum to Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, condemning the President's attack.

Mr Arafat, however, scrupulously avoided insulting the new American Administration, directing his scorn against ex-President Carter rather than his successor. And on several occasions, he departed from his usual demand that the United States should recognize the PLO, referring instead to the necessity of recognizing "the legal rights" of the Palestinians.

This shift of emphasis may seem of little consequence but Middle Eastern politics often revolve around the minutiae of such formula changes.
"I still remember what happened with Carter," Mr Arafat said. "On the first day he came to power, he gave his famous slogan about 'a homeland for the Palestinians'. At first, we said: 'OK, let us wait and see'. And as chairman of the PLO I said that I appreciated what had been said. But I appreciated this too much... and what was the result?"

Camp David, he said, had turned out to be "a conspiracy of self-interest" and after President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977, Mr Brzezinski, Mr Carter's National Security Adviser, had given an interview in which he had said: "Bye-bye PLO."

"So we are not looking for what the Americans are saying now. We prefer to wait and see. I hope that the American Government and the American Administration will recognize the legal rights of the Palestinian people, which have been accepted by the United Nations. We are four million people and we have been living in this tragedy for 32 years. Sixty per cent of our people have been kicked out of their homelands and are stateless... The Americans have a moral and an historical responsibility over the Palestinians."

Continued on page 7, col 3



Photograph by Freddie Dalgety

Fishermen unloading the last of their catch yesterday at Peterhead, where a strike against cheap fish imports is expected to be complete today. More than 800 boats were tied up at Scottish ports as the protest continued. In Grimsby, 250 smack owners laid up their ships in support of fishermen in north-east England ports. Fish aid review, page 2.

H-block deadline for new hunger strike

From Craig Seton
Belfast, Feb 5

The Government faces a new confrontation over the H-block at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland yesterday set a three-week deadline for another hunger strike over their demands for political status.

A statement issued by the men in the Maze and by women at Armagh prison said a fast to the death, if necessary, would start on March 1. But the statement said they had no intention of conceding to the Government's demand that they should be treated as ordinary prisoners. Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said again that political status would not be granted.

In their statement, issued through Provisional Sinn Féin, the prisoners said they had been patiently for seven weeks at the end of the last hunger strike for evidence that the Government was prepared to solve the crisis, but "obstacle after obstacle was placed in our way."
They claimed that conditions had worsened. They had chosen the fifth anniversary of the phasing out of special category status for the new hunger strike. The statement did not reveal how many would take part, but some sources said there would be four men from the IRA and a member of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, and possibly at least one woman.
If a new hunger strike was sustained for as long as the last one it could take a protest into the Easter period, a time of tension in the Republic.

Mr Atkins made it clear that the men would have to conform fully to the prison regime before they could enjoy the privileges which he had previously set out, including their own clothing, but they had failed to do this. Provisional Sinn Féin sources in Belfast gave a warning that this time at least one death was likely and it was possible that it could be a woman.
The men and their supporters outside claim the Government reneged on an agreement over improved prison conditions, but feel that they lost out from the last hunger strike and now have a chance of regaining the initiative.

Their statement says that the original hunger strikers were "morally blackmailed" by those who called on them to end the fast. It now needed to be asked of the Irish bishops, particularly Cardinal Tomás O'Fiaich and Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, what did they recommend ending of the last hunger strike gain for us?

It goes on: "Where is the peace in the prisons which like a promise was held before the men's eyes? Who but the British are responsible for our state which is far worse today than it ever was?"

Disruption by civil servants 'inevitable'

By Our Labour Reporter

Civil Service union leaders last night said that a campaign of industrial action against the Government next month was inevitable after they were made a 6 per cent pay offer which is virtually non-negotiable.

Leaders of the nine unions, representing 580,000 white collar civil servants, were told by government negotiators that pay increases would not be allowed to exceed 6 per cent. That is in line with the cash limit the Government will shortly announce for pay increases for direct state employees.

The unions, at a short meeting yesterday with Mr Gordon Burrett, deputy secretary at the Civil Service Department in charge of pay negotiations, submitted a 15 per cent claim.

Mr William Kendall, secretary general of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said afterwards: "They made no attempt to answer any of the arguments we put to them and this means industrial action is now inevitable."

The unions have for some weeks been preparing a campaign of concerted action which includes disrupting government computer centres and collection of revenues. They gave notice yesterday that all traffic and support personnel might also be involved.

The unions are guaranteeing striking members 85 per cent of gross salaries, and estimate that a sustained dispute will cost them £300,000 a week. A fighting fund of more than £1m has been agreed.

The unions' intention is to cause disruption for the Government which would have as little impact as possible on the public. They aim to block the collection of revenues, which would affect the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement and money supply.

However, they would not rule out action in the departments of health and social security and employment.

US marine found guilty as Vietnam traitor

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Feb 5.—Marine Corps Private First Class Robert R. Garwood, the only Vietnam veteran to be tried as a traitor, was found guilty today of collaborating with the enemy and assaulting another American prisoner. The decision could put him in prison for life.
The five-member jury of Marine Corps officers, all of them Vietnam veterans, deliberated for more than 12 hours before reaching their verdict. It came almost two years after Private Garwood passed a note to a foreigner in a Hanoi restaurant saying he wanted to return home.
The charge of assaulting an American prisoner-of-war in a Vietnam prison camp was reduced from an original charge of maltreating another prisoner.

Index-linked pensions needed in private sector, report suggests

By David Felton

An inquiry into the value of inflation-proofed pensions covering five million public service workers has concluded that there would be justice in extending index-linked pensions to workers in the private sector.

The report of the inquiry, headed by Sir Bernard Scott, deputy chairman of Lloyds Bank and former chairman of Lucas Industries, which was published yesterday, also suggested that it may be necessary for £500,000 which civil servants pay to pay higher contributions for their pensions.

A wide range of state employees, including local government workers, teachers, miners, nurses, the police, and other nationalised industry workers are covered by index-linked pension agreements. The scheme, which was introduced in 1974, cost £3,230m last year, with £1,300m of that figure covering past and present pension increases.

In suggesting that the Government should examine the possibility of making index-linked bonds available on the money markets to fund inflation-proofing of pensions outside the public sector, the report said: "It is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected."

The report points to the fact that the Government has in countries such as France and West Germany where benefits to pensioners are superior to those in Britain and index-linking applies to public and private sectors.

Introducing the report yesterday, Sir Bernard said he saw no reason why index-linking of pensions should necessarily be inflationary if contributions were pitched at the right level.

On that point the report said: "Good pensions, like anything else, have to be earned and paid for during working life and the burden to be shouldered over the next 20 years will steadily grow."

"If as a society we fail to face these realities, we shall find that the present that 'it is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected' will be but an empty phrase," it said.

Sir Bernard denied that the committee had exceeded its terms of reference by commenting on the value of extending inflation-proofed pensions to cover private sector workers.

and said the committee had felt it had to comment on the case for such an extension. He said the committee had been unable to decide, in calculating contributions, what value should be attached to the job security of public service workers. "We started off (by thinking) that they should be regarded as having more security than those in the private sector and then we looked at the horrifying cutbacks at British Steel and elsewhere and we decided that we simply could not reach a decision," he said. "I doubt whether any inquiry could produce such a result."

The committee was established in May last year after an announcement in the Commons by the Prime Minister. Its terms of reference were to inquire into the value of differences in the inflation protection of occupational pensions and the value of relative job security for public employees and other conditions of service.

Other members of the committee, which took evidence from 200 organizations and individuals, were Sir Alexander Jarratt, chairman and chief executive of Reed International, Mr Gavin Laird, executive council member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Mr Robert Macdonald, general manager of the Scottish Mutual Assurance Society, and Professor Harold Rose, who is group economic adviser to Barclays Bank.

The committee appointed Professor R. A. Brealey and Dr S. J. Liebowitz of the London Business School to examine the question of uncertainty over future inflation rates suffered by private sector employees and, although the committee disagreed with their assumption of negative real rates of return on investments, it thought their "novel approach" was of considerable interest and merited serious consideration.

The report points out that the Wilson committee of inquiry into the City and financial institutions was evenly divided on the question of issuing indexed bonds. "We suggest that the Government should look seriously at the case for issuing indexed bonds to cover pension liabilities."

The report continues: "In our work, if we have been forced to recall that the main

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Somalia: world's worst refugee crisis

TIME and MONEY RUNNING OUT FAST

Every day another 3,000 refugees leave the Ogaden in Ethiopia. They flee to Somalia, an underdeveloped and poor country where one person in every three is a refugee. They wait in makeshift camps for governments to decide their fate. They could be there for a very long time.

The camps are grotesquely overcrowded. Food supplies are uncertain and there is a constant fear of cholera or typhoid epidemics. Oxfam field workers report that the situation is almost out of hand. Just one failure in the delicate supply lines could cause an unprecedented disaster.

HELP DESPERATELY NEEDED NOW

These are the problems: Lack of water—people are digging holes in river beds and scooping the water out with cups. Better water supplies are needed for the increasing refugee population.

Medical care—the state of the new refugees is getting worse. They need extra food for the children and more medical help. Oxfam already has a medical team in one of the biggest camps.

Money running out—as the problems intensify, money is getting desperately short. Oxfam will soon have to take money from other programmes to help. When the money runs out, the problems will still be there.

Almost two million people are on the brink of a disaster. We can't just let it happen. We must find the money to carry on to meet the new needs. Will you help?

Please send us a donation today.

Here is my donation for your work in Somalia. I enclose

☐ £ ☐ £25 ☐ £10 ☐ £5

Please send me your latest progress report.

Name

Address

To Guy Stringer, Room T28 Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ.

Thankyou.



Sir Peter Medawar, Lord Olivier and Leonard Cheshire, first OMs since 1977

Three named for Order of Merit

An actor, a scientist, and a war hero are to become members of the Order of Merit, Buckingham Palace announced last night.

Lord Olivier, Sir Peter Medawar, and Group Captain Leonard Cheshire were the three members to join the order since 1977. They replace Lord Mountbatten of Burma, Admiral Sutherland, and Sir Alexander Macdonald, who have all died within the past two years.

The order is limited to 24 members, with the addition of foreign honorary members, and is one of only four in the Queen's personal gift.

Lord Olivier, now 73, was made a life peer in 1970. He began his acting career in 1922 and has played most of the important roles in the British theatre.

Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, aged 63, founded

worldwide chain of Cheshire Cheshire Foundation Homes for the disabled.

He commanded the RAF "Dambuster" squadron during the Second World War. Sir Peter Medawar, FRS, aged 65, is a medical scientist and scholar who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1960 for his work on transplant surgery. He was director of the Medical Research Council from 1962 to 1971.

Neutron bomb denounced in Soviet Union

The Soviet Union is gearing up its propaganda apparatus for a renewed onslaught against the neutron bomb after American announcements that the United States would like to continue to develop the weapon. Mrs Thatcher told the Commons that it was unlikely that the proposed bomb would be based in Britain and the State Department in Washington attempted to calm European fears.

Rebuff for TUC

The TUC's demand that the Government should reflate the economy by increased public spending was rejected by the Prime Minister. Opening a Commons debate, she said that her Government's fight against inflation was the only way to eventual prosperity.

New terror in Italy

Italian police arrested the suspected leader of the Fringe Line terrorist organization after a shoot-out in Turin. In an upsurge of violence in Milan Red Brigades gunmen seized a factory foreman and kidnapped the wife of a building contractor.

Police 'race squads' move supported

The idea being considered by the Home Office of special police units to deal with racialist attacks was welcomed by an Oldham community worker. The main cause of growing violence, he said, was high unemployment among young people in run-down areas.

Uplift for crumbs

A new way of treating breadcrumbs has revolutionized the flagging commercial crumb market and development work has started to introduce "novelty coat" crumbs only for seafood and poultry but for cakes, desserts and confectionery.

How siege PC hid gun

Police Constable Trevor Lock, who was in the Iranian Embassy in London during the siege, described how for four days he declined opportunities to wash himself because he feared the pistol he was hiding would be discovered.

Witness sent to jail

A hunt saboteur who appeared in court as chief prosecution witness against members of a hare-coursing club accused of assaulting anti-hunt demonstrators was jailed after refusing to agree to be bound over to keep the peace for two years.

West Germany and France open talks

The thirty-seventh Franco-German summit meeting opened in Paris and leaders of both countries emphasized the "great cordiality of the talks" intended to bring a common analysis of East-West relations, détente, the Polish crisis, Afghanistan, and of Europe's role in the Middle East peace initiative and world affairs.

2,000 jobs lost

More than 2,000 jobs are being lost in the heavy vehicle industry. GKN Sankey, supplier of truck wheels, chassis and cabs is cutting 1,241 jobs at Telford, Shropshire, while 810 jobs are going at Seddon Atkinson, the truck manufacturer, in Lancashire.

Talks of NUS dispute: The two sides in the seamen's dispute are to meet tomorrow, raising hopes of a settlement.

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Michael Horroby on Europe's Middle East initiative; Michael Binyon's diary from Siberia; Arts, page 11
David Robinson reviews Tarkovsky's 'Stalker' and other films seen in London; W. J. McCormack on James Joyce

Sport, pages 12, 13
Ice skating: British couple poised to bring back title; Boxing: Cowdell to meet world No 1 contender; Football: Ipswich support Leicester; new points plan; Athletics: Coe in British team to face East Germany; Obituary, page 16
Mr Geoffrey Dyson, General Sir William Scotter

Business News, pages 17-23
Stock markets: Equities recovered after the discount over an unchanged minimum lending rate. Gilt showed losses of up to a 4.1. The FT index closed 6.9 points down at 472.

Financial Editor: Lanchester sets the scene: Business features: Nicholas Hirst and Michael Pratt on London's new International Petroleum Exchange; Kenneth Owen on rising cost of wear and tear; Business Diary: Down memory lane to the Morris car works, Oxford.

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How we turned a simple, efficient car into a simpler, more efficient van.

This is the long-awaited new Escort van, that's even better than its predecessor.

As you'd expect it owes much to the technology that went into the new Escort saloon.

But it is, in fact, a very different animal.

A purpose-built van.

Since its sole objective in life is to make money for its owner, the engineers made everything as simple and functional as possible, which not only enhances its reliability but also keeps running costs to a minimum.

Little big van - the vital statistics.

	Ford Escort 55	Leyland Marina 575	Vauxhall Chevette
Max. load volume (behind seats) (cu. ft.)†	94.0	88.0	††
Max. load floor length (ins.)	72.0	72.8	62.4
Max. load space height (ins.)	40.8	39.1	31.6
Max. load space width (ins.)	59.0	57.5	50.0
Payload incl. driver* — (lbs)	1620	1296	1102
— (kilos)	735	588	500

*Subject to production tolerances. †SAE method. ††Not published.

The Escort equals or beats its closest competitors in most of the vital areas in the chart, which makes it just a shade more efficient as a load carrier.



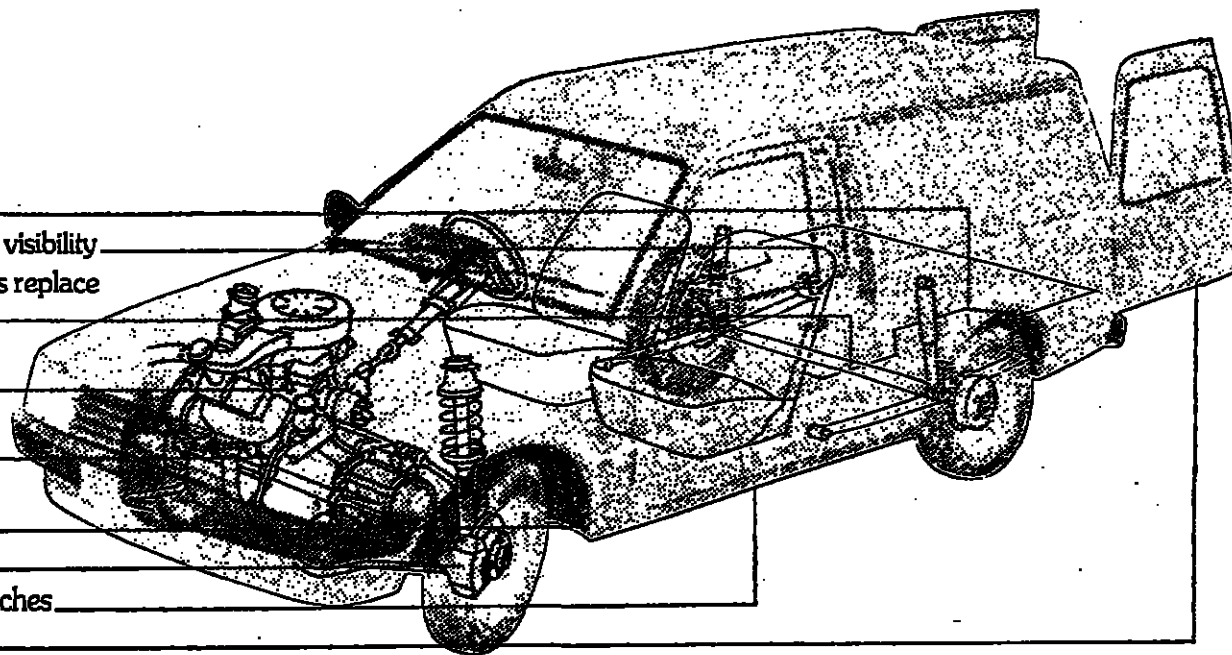
Not only that but its back doors are wider and higher than its rivals. And its floor is lower. So it's just a bit easier to load and unload. Incidentally, the doors have a slam lock, so the driver can't forget to lock them while he has his elevenses.

And, as you can see, the wheel arches intrude very little into the cargo area. They're both shallow and flat-topped.

Note also the tough steel floor.

Illustrated is the Escort L van.

1. Shallow flat-topped wheel arches
2. Extended side windows for better visibility
3. Simple beam axle and leaf springs replace independent rear suspension
4. Excellent accessibility to engine for easy maintenance
5. Choice of three high-efficiency engines
6. Latest technology applied to anti-corrosion treatment
7. More powerful brakes
8. Wheel base lengthened by four inches
9. Slam lock gives extra security



The Escort van is available in two payload versions - the 35 and the 55.

High efficiency engines.

Heavy duty transmission.

You have a choice of 1.1, 1.3 or 1.6 litre engines.

The 1.1 is derived from the proven and economical Fiesta unit with variable venturi carburettor.

And the 1.3 and 1.6 engines are the entirely new, fuel-efficient Escort units with features like breakerless ignition and hydraulic tappets to reduce maintenance costs.

They go 12000 miles between standard services with only an interim service at 6000 miles. The gearbox can be removed without taking out the engine and Ford parts are competitively priced.

The drive train and brakes are designed to cope with stop go conditions while heavily loaded. And the front wheel drive owes much to experience gained from the Fiesta, so reliability is built-in.

Simplicity pays.

At the back, the independent rear suspension of the car has been replaced by a beam axle and leaf springs.

Although less advanced, this system is better for a van because it gives superior handling with half a ton in the back. And intrudes less into the load space. It's also very simple to maintain.

Incidentally, the wheel base is four inches longer than the car's, which improves weight distribution and increases the load capacity.

A nice place to work.

The cab features the same dash and heating system as the car.

But the seats are upholstered in tough vinyl which is extremely durable.

The additional side windows give much improved visibility for parking.

If you want extra comfort you can order an 'L' version of the van with cloth seats, carpet, centre face level vents, cigar lighter, door bins and intermittent wipe.

You can see the new Escort vans at your Ford dealer now. He'll be pleased to give you more information, plus details of Fleet Leasing and Contract Hire facilities.

The new Ford Escort van.



Ford gives you more.



HOME NEWS

Way found for hospital patients to question a clinical judgment

By Nicholas Timmins

The British Medical Association yesterday gave overwhelming approval to a new procedure to allow patients to bring complaints about a hospital doctor's clinical judgment.

The procedure has been described by the Association of Community Health Councils as "a kind of Star Chamber arrangement".

A London teaching hospital consultant has called it "a charter to protect the doctor", while the executive of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, which represents 4,000 of the 13,000 consultants, has suggested that a layman be involved and gave warning that unless the procedure is seen to be fair by both doctors and patients there will be trouble.

The BMA's hospital doctors committee approved the procedure by 45 votes to 2. The votes against came from a regional committee that felt the procedure was unnecessary. It will now go to the Department of Health where it is expected to be incorporated in a circular being prepared about patients' complaints generally.

Mr David Bolt, chairman of the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, said yesterday that the procedure was as far as the profession was prepared to go at present.

It would meet the most virulent complaint from patients that no one will tell them anything when they try to complain. Patients are guaranteed access to the consultant in charge of their case. The procedure is intended to deal with complaints where there is no suggestion that a doctor has been negligent but where the patient is dissatisfied

with the outcome of treatment. Cases in which a patient sought damages would still be handled through the medical defence societies, and if necessary, the courts.

Under the procedure, the patient would first complain to the consultant in charge of his case. If he was not satisfied with the explanation, his complaint would be put in writing and the regional medical officer would be informed. If his advice did not lead to satisfaction, the RMO, where he thinks it appropriate, would refer the case to two independent consultants.

They would discuss the case with the consultant and the patient, attempt to satisfy the patient if they felt clinical judgment had been exercised responsibly, and make a confidential report to the RMO.

If they felt there had been difficulties they would discuss them with the hospital staff and explain it to patient, as far as possible, to prevent recurrences. The patient would not be given a detailed report, but the local district administrator would write to him setting out any action taken, taking the RMO's advice on how to proceed. A private comment on the clinical matters involved.

Mr Bolt said yesterday that he took the point that dissatisfied patients might still feel there had been a cover-up. He agreed, however, to having a layman sit in judgment on them on entirely technical matters.

If the procedure became public, doctors would be forced into practising defensive medicine to ensure that they could not be found at fault. The cost would be enormous and would "bring the health service down around our ears".

Bill aims at easy access for disabled people

By Our Political Staff

A Bill to improve the access of disabled people to public buildings, introduced in the Commons by Mr Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfon, was published yesterday. It has all-party support and comes up for second reading on February 13, being third in the list of private members' Bills to be considered that day.

It would ensure that developers of buildings to which the public have access, when they are notified of consent, would have their attention drawn to the requirements of the British Standards code of practice for access for disabled people to public buildings defined in the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970.

The Bill would also make new provisions for the needs of disabled people, particularly the blind, to be taken into account when local authorities undertake work on pavements and highways.

A Commons motion asking the Government to support the Bill has been signed by more than 50 MPs.

Mr John Grant, MP for Islington, Central, and Opposition spokesman on employment, told members of the Woolwich Party last night that the disabled were always disproportionately affected when unemployment was high.

He said that on January 13 Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons that "we do not



Lord Geoffrey Lloyd (with dog), chairman of the trustees of Leeds Castle, Kent, escorting representatives of disability societies who were advising yesterday on making castle tours easier for the disabled.

intend to cut services for the disabled". Those were her exact words, he said, and she went on to call for more voluntary effort from disabled people to help themselves.

That was her customary style of passing the buck, Mr Grant said. "What she said about cuts was a quite disgraceful lie which could only have been calculated to mislead

"It is utterly unbelievable that she was unaware of what was going on. Indeed, disabled people's organizations have protested openly to her."

Let her talk to any local authority social services department and hear of the struggle they are having to try to safeguard services for the disabled, often unsuccessfully.

Idle hands turn to broken bricks in jobless mill towns

Racialism blamed on the recession

From John Charrles

Oldham

Oldham, with 20,000 members of ethnic minorities among its population of 224,000, an unemployment rate of 11 per cent, large tracts of derelict land, substandard housing and disused factories and mills, gave a cautious welcome to the news that Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had agreed to a study of racialist tensions in Britain.

Mr Keith Bradford, community relations officer for the Oldham Council for Racial Equality, an independent body, welcomed particularly the news that special police units would be considered to monitor racialist attacks.

"I think the idea of special police units is excellent," he said. "We have poor, black and white, and drink-driving squads, so why should we not have racialist violence squads?"

Mr Bradford said he hoped that the initiative began at a meeting on Wednesday at the Oldham Council for Racial Equality and a delegation from the Joint Committee against Racism would produce results.

There were 20 cases of violent attacks and vandalism directed specifically against the immigrant community in Oldham last year, compared with

six in each of the three previous years. The 20 cases included stoning of young people in the streets, burning of garden gates, daubing of slogans on walls, throwing petrol bombs and attacks on Bengali temples and the offices of the local Bangladeshi Association.

Two cases have been reported so far this year, both assaults on people of Pakistani origin.

Mr Bradford said he thought that some of the incidents could be attributed to orchestrated action by political groups, but many arose because a large number of young people in the town were without work or any source of constructive activity. They threw stones at people with coloured skins and daubed swastikas and such letters as "NP" on walls, without necessarily belonging to a political movement.

Insufficient credit was given to the police for their work in combating such crimes, Mr Bradford said. Many culprits had been arrested and brought before the courts.

Some of the lack of confidence in the police of the ethnic minority community was caused by a communications difficulty which his organization was trying to resolve, he said.

The report by the Joint Committee against Racism, which singled out Oldham for special attention, said that similar,

possibly worse, incidents had occurred in parts of the city of Manchester and such towns as Preston, Blackburn and Dewsbury, all suffering acutely from the recession.

In Oldham and its surrounding mill towns unemployment has affected the immigrants as hard as the rest of the population.

A high proportion of immigrant workers in the old cotton towns have for many years been predominantly employed on night shifts, which were among the first jobs to disappear in the now almost non-existent Lancashire textile industry.

Towns such as Oldham have also suffered from acute industrial and housing dereliction. The local council estimated that it needed £3m to demolish or repair 40 derelict cotton mills.

Looking out of his office window yesterday, Mr Bradford said: "I can see piles of brick and rubble from here. Where there are broken bricks lying around you can be pretty sure that there will soon be people ready to pick them up and throw them at somebody."

Study appeal: Mr Raymond Whitney, Conservative MP for Wycombe, has asked Mr Whitelaw to include in the study those individuals and organizations "who seek to generate discontent and fear within the ethnic minority groups for their own political purposes".

IBA agrees changes in the ATV franchise

By Kenneth Gosling

New arrangements under which ATV will continue to hold the Midlands television franchise were accepted by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) yesterday.

The company was given until the end of January to meet six conditions imposed by the authority. They include the restructuring of ATV into two area boards to cover the new contract area of east and west Midlands and offering 49 per cent of the company's shares to outsiders, especially Midlands investors. They will have two representatives on the main board.

The company's detailed proposals include the nomination of Lord Windlesham as managing director of the restructured company, and a separate chairman of the main board, unconnected with ATV or its parent company, Associated Communications Corporation.

The west and east Midlands boards will also have chairmen having no connection with either ATV or the corporation.

When the 49 per cent share offer is made, consideration will

be given to supporters of the unsuccessful consortia who bid for the franchise, Midlands and Merca.

Eight new regional directors will have no previous connection with ATV and in time the main board will consider finding a new name for the company. It will also consider creating an educational and arts trust. A new television centre will be built in the East Midlands and seven senior programme staff appointed.

Further discussion about the full implementation of the proposals is to take place, the IBA said last night.

"Panorama" director-general of the BBC, Sir Ian Trethowan, has agreed to meet next Tuesday the secretaries of two unions with members in broadcasting to discuss the issues raised by the proposed Panorama television programme on the security services.

Mr Anthony Hearn, of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs, and Mr Kenneth Ashton, of the National Union of Journalists, will express their members' disquiet over claims that cuts were made on Sir Ian's orders.

River jobs plan condemned

Britain's farmworkers reacted angrily yesterday to a proposal that members laid off or made redundant should be used by water boards to maintain river and drainage systems. The plan, put forward by the Country Landowners' Association, is being debated with water authorities.

Capitain Harry Black, chairman of the Internal Drainage Board in Norfolk, said boards were partly dependent on

farmers to maintain rivers flowing through their land.

The plan has been condemned by the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, which represents not only many of Britain's 250,000 farmworkers but also many of the men in the water and drainage industry.

A spokesman said: "The idea that farmworkers have nothing to do in the winter is absolute fiction."

New dispute over status of Cambridge lecturer

By Paul Flather of The Times Higher Education Supplement

A decision not to upgrade an assistant lecturer in social psychology has led to a second dispute at Cambridge University and exposed the unofficial status of social and political science teaching at the university.

The university has rejected an application and two appeals from Dr David Ingleby, an assistant lecturer and fellow of Darwin College, for upgrading to a permanent post. The university's English faculty is in disarray after Dr Colin MacCabe, an assistant lecturer in English, was not upgraded.

Dr Ingleby has claimed there were serious breaches of academic justice in the procedures used to review his case. He said the appointments committee had not included academics in social psychology and one of his internal assessors was a man known to be hostile to his work.

The case has drawn attention to the status of the Social and Political Science Committee, set up in 1965 as an interim step towards a new social and political science faculty. All progress since then has been blocked and the 12 social and political science dons wonder how seriously the university takes their work.

Without faculty status the committee has weak representation within the university hierarchy. The weak position of social and political science lecturers has undermined the appeals of Dr Ingleby, who has received the support of all his colleagues, about 90 students and a wide range of academics, including Professor Charles Taylor, of All Souls College, Oxford.

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GLC complains to auditor over Lambeth

By Our Local Government Correspondent

The Greater London Council is to complain to the district auditor about the alleged mispending of Lambeth ratepayers' money on "misleading political documents".

Mr Richard Brew, deputy leader of the council, which is Lambeth's largest ratepayer, said yesterday that he had instructed officials to make the complaint.

Mr Brew, leader of the GLC policy and resources committee, said the documents failed to give an accurate picture of why Lambeth was asking its ratepayers to pay such exorbitant sums of money.

Lambeth council explained that the immediate reason for the supplementary 20p rate was that "through no fault of its own" it faced £11.2m overspending in the present financial year.

Mr Brew said that the GLC, like all Lambeth ratepayers, was entitled to receive basic financial information in a form that was "not blatantly party political or misleading".

The GLC's bill for Lambeth's supplementary rate is £975,362, and its total rates bill for the year will be £7,992,272.

Mr Brew pointed out that that figure compared with about £4,500,000 that would have been the bill if the GLC's properties happened to be situated over the boundary in Conservative-controlled Wandsworth instead of the Marxist people's republic of Lambeth.

Safeguards on data banks under study

By a Staff Reporter

The storing of information in computers in Britain and the protection of the public are being examined by the Government as a matter of urgency, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, said yesterday.

During the committee stage of the British Telecommunications Bill he said there was great anxiety among operators of data banks in Britain that countries with protection laws might prevent information coming to places like Britain that did not have such laws.

There was a very strong commercial reason for dealing with the matter and the Government was considering it and the whole question of public protection as a matter of urgency.

Mr Baker's comments, the first statement of government intention on data protection for many months, were made in response to an appeal by Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, for protection for in-

dividuals against computer data banks.

Mr Mikardo told the Commons that such banks were of concern and a source of danger, and Britain should bring in laws of protection in line with other EEC countries.

He called for safeguards to ensure that the public would know about data banks being used; the information was obtained lawfully; was accurate and under a time limit; the banks be limited in purpose and access to the data limited to authorized people; individuals would have a right of access and not be identified in general statistics.

Computer companies, the medical profession and civil libertarians have been urging the Government to take action.

Yesterday Miss Patricia Hewitt, general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, said: "It is not good enough for the Government to say it is considering this as a matter of urgency. The time is long overdue for legislation and there is no lack of proposals. All that is lacking is the political will."

ADVERTISEMENT

Somalia

Disaster Victims

face death from starvation

The terrible drought continues. So does the influx of refugees from the Ogaden conflict. Famine sufferers are in dire plight. Hunger threatens to kill many more helpless old people unless extra supplies come soon.

Help the Aged nurses continue to work among the worst affected sufferers, but they and volunteer workers are severely short of essential supplies.

In the name of humanity can each of us do less than send a lifeline of help for at least one of the victims—quickly.

Please send generously to: Hon Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T3S, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed.)

Training scheme for young blacks

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Bristol is among six places listed in proposals put to the Manpower Services Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality this week for expansion of a pioneer training scheme for young blacks and Asians.

Under the scheme they are taught how to use keyboards for typing, word processing, and data preparation. The company running the scheme is part of Key Holdings Ltd, a group operating in 17 countries.

Miss Denise Abbott, youth employment officer at the Commission for Racial Equality, said it was concerned at indications that the Government was planning no provision to take

account of the disadvantage experienced by young blacks when looking for work.

But it was encouraging that the kind of measures recommended by the Commission were being implemented independently using existing provisions.

Mr Christopher Mayhew, the former Labour minister, who is advising Key Holdings on its scheme, said: "This is for 16, 17 and 18-year-olds. It is giving priority to the ethnic minority. It is not exclusive; white trainees can join."

"We are planning to bring these centres where there is the greatest amount of unemployment among black youngsters. We know that as between two youngsters of equal keenness,

equal skill and equal attractiveness, the black youngster will not get the job as easily as the white youngster."

Describing a pilot scheme at Acton, west London, as a success, Mr Mayhew said that Key Holdings was proposing six similar centres at Bristol, Smethwick, Leicester, Bradford, somewhere in the North-west, probably Manchester, and in the Lewisham-Catford area of London.

The advantage of the scheme for the unemployed is that aptitude for the job is what matters, not paper qualifications, and the demand for skills taught will increase with the growth in high technology, office techniques and communication.

£35,000 bid fails to buy gold throne and stool

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

A golden throne and footstool made in the second quarter of the nineteenth century failed to find a buyer at Sotheby's Belgrave yesterday and was bought in at £36,000. That implies that there was a genuine bidder prepared to spend £35,000 on seizing himself in such regal luxury; the bidding started at £10,000.

Some mystery attaches to the pieces. Stylistically they clearly come from an Indian palace but there were any number of maharajahs who might have wanted a somewhat Europeanized chair covered with gold, with lion finials, to boost their egos. Sotheby's say they have attempted to research its origin but failed.

The piece was consigned to them by a dealer acting as the agent of the present owner, who, they have been assured, bought the throne in Britain.

There have been several disputes over art works smuggled out of India in recent years, but Sotheby's say they have had no inquiries from the Indian Government on this piece. Although the throne and footstool are gloriously flashy items, it is the gold sheathing with which they are covered that really counts.

The gold covering the two pieces is reputed to weigh more than 7,000 grams, hence the estimate of £50,000-£80,000.

put on the piece by Sotheby's.

The sale of oriental works of art also contained a late nineteenth-century massive Indian silver salver (8,507 grams) at £5,000 (estimate £5,000-£7,000) and a massive urn and cover of similar date (7,238 grams), which was unsold at £2,100 (estimate £3,000-£4,000).

The sale in general proved unpredictable; there was little demand for furniture, but strong competition for famille rose and Canton ceramics. The sale totalled £91,285, with 46 per cent unsold, mainly accounted for by the throne.

A sale of important English, continental and American silver held by Christie's in New York on Wednesday underlined the slip in auction prices. The sale totalled £171,950, with only 3 per cent unsold; English buyers secured a large proportion of the most important pieces.

The top price was \$60,000 (estimate \$30,000 to \$40,000) for a fine silver ewer made in London in 1674 and engraved with the contemporary arms of Charles Salusbury of Bachynbryd, co Denbigh, and his wife, Elizabeth. The London dealer, Koopman, carried off a silver wine cup made in 1634, at \$56,000 or £23,333, despite its historical importance to Americans.

Bail for doctor on charge of murdering baby

Dr Leonard John Henry

Archer Arthur, aged 54, was remanded on bail at Derby Magistrates' Court yesterday until March 5 charged with the murder of John Pearson, aged three days, contrary to common law.

Mrs Daphne Thorpe, chairman, gave Dr Arthur bail, provided he surrendered his passport, reported any change of address, did not discuss the case with doctors likely to be witnesses for the prosecution and did not visit Derby City Hospital or Women's Hospital.

Dr Arthur's home address was given as Royal Oak Cottage, Church Boughton, Derbyshire.

Smokers put others at risk

Fresh evidence that smokers can give lung cancer to non-smokers was presented to the Royal College of Physicians in London yesterday at a conference held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Action on Smoking and Health.

Professor Sir Richard Doll, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology unit in Oxford, told the conference that studies in Athens had confirmed recent research in Japan showing that non-smoking wives of husbands who smoked ran a higher risk of lung cancer than women married to non-smoking husbands.



WE'VE KNOCKED DOWN OUR CITIES

CITY/TOUR	AIRPORT/COACH STATION	NO. OF NIGHTS	DATES	FINAL PRICE	SAVING
DEPARTURES BY AIR					
Rome	Gatwick	3	20 Feb	£95	£20
Venice	Luton	4	2,9 Mar	£105	£20
Cities of Italy	Manchester	7	14,28 Mar	£179	£30
Nice	Luton	3	13 Feb	£69	£40
Jerusalem	Luton	7	2 Mar	£220	£40
Jordan	Heathrow	7	26 Feb, 5 Mar	£214	£40
Leningrad/Moscow	Gatwick	7	28 Feb, 7 Mar	£151	£25
Caucasian Tour	Gatwick	7	14,21,28 Mar	£186	£25
Grand Tunisian Tour	Newcastle	7	26 Feb	£185	£35
DEPARTURES BY COACH					
Five European Capitals	Manchester	8	28 Mar	£176	£30
European Highlights	Victoria	11	14,21,28 Mar	£198	£30

This is just a sample of the cities we're knocking down this winter.

There are many more, so see your travel agent before they're flattened altogether.

Holidays are selected hotels in the cities mentioned. Meal arrangements are for bed and breakfast on city holidays, but most tours include half or full board. Details are in the Winter Sun and Cities Brochure. Prices quoted are guaranteed fixed, subject to changes, and include airfare and insurance. Holidays subject to availability. ATOL 128C.

Thomson Winter Cities

HOME NEWS

Government to abolish 30 powers of entry and inspection

By Frances Gibb

The Government is to abolish 30 powers of inspection and entry into businesses and land by government officials and to modify 63 other powers after a review ordered by the Prime Minister.

The proposals, put forward by ministers, were announced yesterday by Mr John MacGregor, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry.

Most of them will be carried out in the course of departmental legislation, he said, adding: "I am satisfied that the remaining powers are necessary; are sufficiently circumscribed and contain adequate safeguards to ensure that they do not cause an unwarranted intrusion into business premises."

The review was set up in December, 1979, after mounting concern at the growing number of powers of entry possessed by government officials to ensure compliance with legislation.

That concern culminated in a report, *An Inspector at the Door*, in October, 1979, by the official Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses, which identified more than 200 kinds of inspector with as many as 230 powers of entry into businesses and homes.

It said that an Englishman's home was no longer his castle because his property and privacy were at the mercy of an estimated 100,000 "faceless men" with legal powers of intrusion.

Mr MacGregor added that the Government would examine the possibility of introducing more uniformity into the safeguards, possibly in the form of a code of practice, in the light of the findings of the committee.

It is now investigating the search and entry powers of Inland Revenue officials under Lord Keith of Kinkel.

Arrangements are also being made, he said, to scrutinize all future legislation containing powers of entry to ensure they do not impose an undue burden on businesses.

Yesterday Mr David Dexter, chairman of the self-employed federation, said: "We are delighted to see the announcement that the door has been closed on 30 different types of government snoopers."

The federation would continue to examine the powers remaining on the statute book and where necessary put forward arguments for their abolition.

"The growth in the powers of inspectors has constituted a very real encroachment on the freedom of the individual and it has acted as a real deterrent to small business."

But the federation expressed concern at the likely delay before the Government considered a code of practice, Mr John Blundell, a federation official, said the Keith committee was not due to report until 1983. "That will probably be too late for the 1983 Finance Bill, so we cannot expect any change until 1984."

The powers of entry to be abolished span a wide range of departments, including those of employment, energy, and environment, and the Scottish Office and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

They include the power of transport officials to enter land to extinguish fires caused by locomotives under the Railway Fires Act, 1905.

Embassy siege PC tells of ploy used to keep gun hidden

By Stewart Tendler

After four days of the Iranian Embassy siege Police Constable Trevor Lock felt he could no longer refuse offers by his Arab captors to wash himself without arousing suspicion. In an effort to keep his pistol hidden he had kept on his coat, tunic jacket and two pullovers.

At the wash basin he waited until the gunman with him had gone, peeled off his coat and jacket and hurriedly began to wash. His holster made a tell-tale bulge under the pullovers.

Then the gunman returned, he told a press conference at Scotland Yard yesterday. PC Lock showed how he bent over the basin trying to conceal the bulge, but the gunman stepped forward.

To his great relief the terrorist offered him a tube of toothpaste. He thanked the man and took the tube.

Yesterday PC Lock, who was praised by a judge at the Central Criminal Court after the trial of the survivor of the six terrorists in the siege, described for the first time some of the incidents during the siege, and his feelings.

He said of the rescue by the Special Air Service Regiment: "I am grateful for what the SAS did. If it was not for them I would not be here, and I know that for a fact."

PC Lock, who has six children, said he felt that his wife, had suffered more than he because she did not know what was happening in the embassy.

A thickset man with an east London accent, PC Lock had been based in Barking for his entire police career until January, 1980, when he joined the diplomatic protection group.

When the terrorists struck on April 30 last he had arranged to take advantage of his new work in central London to give his wife an evening out. They planned to visit Harrods and PC Lock intended to surprise her later with a meal and seats at a West End musical.

As it was, PC Lock said yesterday, they have not yet been to Harrods, and by the time the six-day siege had ended the show had closed.

He began duty early that morning at the Iranian Embassy and had gone inside for coffee. He said: "I believe that coffee saved my life. During the siege I asked Faisal (the second in command) if his approach to the embassy would have been any different if I had been standing outside. He said, 'Don't ask me, as you are now my friend'. If I had been standing outside I would not be here today."

PC Lock said he was going outside when the terrorists arrived. As they took over the embassy he told them, "Take it easy, don't hurt anyone", and repeated the advice throughout the siege.

He was searched but the terrorist was shaking with nervousness or excitement and did not find the gun. Later only four of the hostages knew he was carrying it and although it was suggested he might give it up as a sign of good intent, he decided against that because he felt there might be retribution or it would simply add to the terrorists' arsenal.

He felt his gun was a token compared with the terrorists' weapons.

During the siege he built relationships with the hostages and the terrorists. Mr Fowzi Najad, the surviving terrorist, told the police after the siege that the policeman was an excellent man.

"I developed this image with the hostages", PC Lock said, "that if I was all right, they were all right... it developed a link with the terrorists because they thought I was doing it for the good of the hostages. They accepted this as being my discipline."

Asked if they thought him eccentric because of his not washing, he replied: "Not eccentric, more likely that I was a dirty British policeman."

At the end of the siege he drew his gun against the terrorist leader but did not fire.

"I do not think I could have had it on my conscience, I do not believe in armed policemen generally, but there are duties where they have to be."

Overall, he said, "I handled the situation as I saw fit. I was unsure of being brave, I have no illusions, I am 40 years of age and have 15 years' experience. Anyone with those qualifications would have handled it the same."

PC Lock and his wife have found great differences in their lives. He said: "Before the siege I used to be able to stop being a policeman and come back to a private world. We no longer have that privacy. Everywhere we go I am 'Trevor the policeman'. In the supermarket you see people nudging each other. On Underground trains I get offered newspapers to autograph."

PC Lock is still with the protection group, but is involved in administration and training.



Photograph by Bill Warhurst

PC Trevor Lock with his wife at Scotland Yard yesterday.

Sutcliffe case criticism 'unfair'

By Our Crime Reporter

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, went "far beyond the bounds of fairness" in attacking the police for their part in the publicity surrounding the arrest of Mr Peter Sutcliffe in Yorkshire, the latest edition of *Police* magazine says.

The magazine is published by the Police Federation, which represents lower ranks in England and Wales. It says Lord Hailsham told the Lords during a debate on reform of the law on contempt: "If editors are provoked by policemen to break the law I know whom to blame."

But, the magazine says, the West Yorkshire police could not avoid a press conference after an investigation lasting five years and arousing considerable interest. The alternative "would have been equally, perhaps worse, damaging speculation and rumour."

The blame for the coverage by newspapers lay not at the press conference but in Fleet Street's editorial chairs. Almost the entire British press had taken leave of its senses, and the next day "respect for the presumption of innocence was notable by its absence."

The magazine says that in attacking the police Lord Hailsham, Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, and Sir

Ian Percival, QC, the Solicitor General, had indulged in overkill.

In fact, the police have taken to heart the rebukes from the law officers after the arrest. Details of the arrest last month of Mr Charles Richardson, the former London gang leader who escaped from prison, were not released by Scotland Yard in press conference but in Fleet Street's editorial chairs. Almost the entire British press had taken leave of its senses, and the next day "respect for the presumption of innocence was notable by its absence."

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Journalists seek support for information Bill

By a Staff Reporter

A last-minute effort to muster support for the private member's Freedom of Information Bill to be debated by the Commons today was made yesterday by the National Union of Journalists.

Mr Francis Beckett, president of the union, wrote to the 21 MPs on both sides of the House who are members of the NUJ, urging them to support the Bill, which the Government hopes to kill by mobilizing its "payroll vote" of ministers and their parliamentary private secretaries.

MP fears big reductions in British Rail services

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The fear that British Rail may be faced with a plan for large reductions in its main services was raised by a Labour MP in the Commons standing committee on the Transport Bill yesterday.

The Bill paves the way for the sale of British Rail subsidiaries, such as Sealink and the railway hotels, to the private sector. Labour MPs pressed the Government to accept an amendment ensuring that the railways board retained a majority shareholding.

Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield, East, said he was sure there were plans in readiness for a fundamental curbing back of British Rail's main services after the sale of profitable subsidiary businesses.

The amendment was still under discussion when the committee adjourned.

"Slippery slope": Increased fares and reduced services could lead to British Rail going down the same slippery slope as the Post Office, Mr James Towler, chairman of the Yorkshire Area Transport Users' Consultative Committee, says in his report published yesterday (Ronald Kershaw writes).

"People would probably desert British Rail in their thousands."

Prosecution witness sent to prison

From Our Correspondent

Cambridge

A hunt saboteur who went to Cambridge Crown Court as the chief prosecution witness ended in jail.

Mr Trevor Scott, aged 22, was called to give evidence against two members of a hare coursing club accused of assaulting anti-hunt demonstrators.

Mr Scott, of East Gate, Louth, Lincolnshire, an executive member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, was called before Judge Wild at the end of the case on Wednesday and asked if he would agree to be bound over to keep the peace for two years. He refused and the judge sent him to jail for seven days.

The case arose from a series of incidents at a coursing meeting in Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridgeshire, in October, when hunt saboteurs chased away hares before they could be coursed. Coursers chased the hunt saboteurs and there were scuffles and fights.

Kenneth Alsop, aged 52, of Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, and Thomas Day, aged 48, of Watford, Hertfordshire, were accused of assaulting saboteurs, but Judge Wild discharged the jury from entering a verdict in their cases and instead entered formal not guilty verdicts on two charges of assault against Mr Day.

He accepted Mr Alsop's plea of guilty to common assault on Mr Scott, instead of a charge of causing actual bodily harm. Mr Alsop agreed to be bound over for a year in the sum of £50.

Mr Scott and Mark Dyer, a fellow saboteur and Oxford University undergraduate, were called before the judge and told that they had broken the spirit of the law by their conduct. They were asked if they agreed to be bound over.

Mr Dyer agreed, saying: "I would like to protest but it would ruin my academic career if I went to prison." Mr Scott refused, saying: "It is only right, as a British citizen, that I should be arrested, charged and brought before a court before I am bound over."

The capsule sets off for Murrayfield

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

Twenty-two members of the Taff's Well Rugby Club, in Mid Glamorgan, climbed into a 12-ton time machine last night, programmed to touch down tomorrow outside Murrayfield, where Scotland are to play Wales.

Their machine is a 40ft articulated lorry, and they hope that the travelling time will pass unnoticed, because it has been decorated inside to resemble their clubhouse. The illusion, they claim, will prevent them from becoming homesick as they drink and sing their way across the border.

When the lorry doors have closed, the supporters will help themselves from a self-service bar, and recline in armchairs on a carpeted floor. The interior has been decorated with mirrors and provided with heating and soft lighting, in keeping with the ambience of the Taff's Well command centre.

The trailer doors cannot be opened from within, so a gravity lavatory has been provided behind a screen; in case of emergency an alarm connects with the driver's cab.

The lorry will drive through the new anti-drink law being enforced for the match by Scottish police. There is nothing in the new legislation to cover supporters going by articulated truck.

Mr Gwyn Davies, the club winger, who supplied the lorry, said: "We are all looking forward to a smooth journey. The driver will take it nice and easy so as not to disturb our celebrations or to spill any drink." Only eight of the group have tickets for the match. With their usual faith, the others confidently expect to acquire them.

Two years ago, when they made a similar journey, the club members overcame the transport drivers' strike by obtaining special dispensation from the Transport and General Workers' Union for emergency transportation of livestock.

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Cyclists advised not to use narrow saddles

By Our Medical Correspondent

Cyclists may become sexually impotent from pressure on nerves by the bicycle saddle, an American doctor says in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the leading United States weekly journal for doctors.

Dr John D. Goodson, of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, describes a man who lost sensation in his penis after a 180-mile bicycle ride and became impotent.

The cause was found to be damage to the pudendal nerves from his narrow, hard leather bicycle seat. He was advised to use a wider seat and his symptoms resolved within a month.

Compression of the pudendal nerves is a hazard of cycling that may affect the sexual response in both men and women, Dr Goodson says. Either the seat should be padded or it should be sloped downwards to relieve the risk of damaging pressure.

Schools Council head agrees to extend term

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr John Tomlinson, chairman of the Schools Council, has agreed to the Government's invitation to stay on as chairman until November pending the outcome of the Government's review of the council and its functions. Mr Tomlinson's three-year term of office was due to end next month.

The Government is expected to announce Mr Tomlinson's decision at the same time as it announces details of the review and the name of the independent chairman who is to conduct it.

Mr Tomlinson has made clear, however, that he cannot stay on beyond November even if the review is not finished: he has other pressing commitments such as the presidency of the Society of Education Officers, which he takes over next January, as well as his duties as chief education officer for Cheshire.

MP's divorce plea

A divorce petition by Mr Victor Goodhew, aged 61, Conservative MP for St Albans since 1959, appears in the list of undefended cases to be dealt with in London.

More Scottish divorces

Divorces granted by the Court of Sessions in Scotland in 1979 numbered 8,800, compared with 8,500 in the previous year. The figure was more than double the 1969 total.

Waste paper dumped at Department of Industry in protest at lack of recycling

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

Three tons of waste paper was dumped on the Department of Industry's doorstep yesterday when members of conservation and environment protection groups presented a six-point plan aimed at revitalizing the waste paper industry to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry.

In addition to calling for a national resource policy for waste paper use, conservationists asked for an end to duty free imports of paper; grants to reduce energy costs to the industry by conservation measures; increased use of recycled products by local authorities; and government departments and a scheme to label paper according to its fibre content.

After the demonstration, the waste was returned to the Full Circle Recycling Co-op, in

Chelsea, which is one of three organizations associated with Friends of the Earth in the London area which are collecting material for recycling.

Some of it will be sold to a merchant for pulping. But the rest may have to be thrown away as unsaleable, although it is suitable for conversion into a variety of products.

And it is that growing volume of unsaleable waste throughout the country that is at the centre of the protest.

Mrs Joyce Taylor, an architect, expressed the frustration felt not just by voluntary groups but also by merchants and industrial processors, over the "waste paper crisis".

About 7.5 million tons of paper products are used a year in Britain, and more than five million tons of that should come from recycling, saving £1,000m on imports, she argued.

In practice, less than half that amount has been reused in the past, and the quantity to be recycled this year is likely

to fall by 500,000 tons, according to industry estimates.

Mrs Taylor describes the position as absurd, when jobs are being lost and the balance of payments deficit widened.

She says: "Six years has passed since the green paper, *Waste*, stated: 'There must be something wrong in a society which wastes and discards resources on the scale we do today'. Yet we still have no programme for conserving resources."

Speaking of the environmental aspect, Mrs Taylor said: "It is madness not to recycle when experts all over the world agree that there is going to be a timber shortage by the end of the century."

A man at the industry department said that although the anti-waste programme had been abandoned in name, because the Waste Management Advisory Council, formed four years ago, had been closed, the programme had not been abandoned in practice.

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WEST EUROPE



Turin police with Signor Maurice Bignami, who was arrested after a gun battle.

Suspected terrorist leader held

From John Earle

Rome, Feb 5
Signor Maurice Bignami, an alleged head of the Prima Linea (Front Line) terrorist organization, was being held today in Turin, while in Milan, in a sudden upsurge of violence, a factory foreman was temporarily seized by the Red Brigades and a 49-year-old woman was kidnapped.

Signor Bignami, aged 30, was captured in a gun battle with police after a tip off that a gang were robbing a jeweller's shop on the outskirts of Turin.

Armed with a gun and wearing a bulletproof waistcoat, he was wounded in the leg and unable to escape with his companions.

Of French origin, Signor

Bignami was temporarily arrested in 1977, but afterwards, went into hiding. He was wanted by the police in connection with four killings, including those of a Milan judge and a Fiat executive.

The factory foreman, Signor Salvatore Compare, was seized near a bus stop by two youths when on his way to work in the early morning shift at the Breda steelworks. They drove off with him to the gates of the works, quickly chained him to the railings and photographed him with a billboard round his neck reading: "Servant of the bosses - Red Brigades Walter Alasia column", then made off.

At lunchtime, Signora Giorgia Susini, aged 49, wife of a

building contractor, was forced into a car by three men as she left home to pick up her children from school. The car drove off in the direction of the motorway.

In Parliament the Government has called for a vote of confidence at the end of a debate on prolonging a temporary measure allowing the police to hold suspected terrorists incommunicado for 48 hours and in special cases, with permission of a magistrate, up to six days. The debate is being held up by filibustering by opposition radical deputies.

The Government decided on a confidence vote, not because its survival is in doubt, but in an attempt to cut short the debate.

Russia buys more food despite embargo

Brussels, Feb 5.—The EEC's subsidized food sales to the Soviet Union rose steeply last year despite a political commitment to limit trade because of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Statistics released by the EEC Commission today show that in the first half of 1980 food sales to Moscow were worth about \$720m (£300m) compared to \$510m for the whole of the previous year.

While steps had been taken to plug many of the loopholes which allowed a rapid expansion of trade in the immediate aftermath of the embargo, exports of some products were still booming.

Farm price rises: European Community Farm price increases of between 6 and 12 per cent, depending on the product, are likely to be proposed by the European Commission later this month (Our Own Correspondent writes from Brussels).

The proposals are to be examined by the Commission again next Friday and will probably be adopted on February 18 for submission to the Council of Agriculture Ministers.

The prices are supposed to represent the minimum return needed to assure the EEC's eight million farmers a reasonable standard of living. Any produce for which there is no market demand at these minimum prices is bought up and stored by the EEC.

Although the size of the price increase envisaged by the Commission and Mr. Poul Dalsager, the new Danish Commissioner for Agriculture, has been broken down in years it will disappoint farmers, who are demanding an average rise of more than 15 per cent.

OVERSEAS

Poland appears to be heading for a fresh crisis as Solidarity calls another strike

Warsaw, Feb 5.—

Poland headed for a new industrial crisis today as the leaders of the independent trade union movement, called for a general strike in the south western province of Jelenia Gora on Monday and a 10-day-old strike in another southern province continued.

Workers in the southern region of Przemyśl also protested to the Warsaw authorities about new strike pay regulations. They announced they were in a state of strike readiness.

But the Government, which has given Solidarity several stern warnings in the last week, accusing it of turning into a political party, made no move to avert the latest wave of protests.

In Bielsko-Biala province, where a 10-day strike is costing 400m Zlotys (£3.4m) a day in lost production, union leaders said the deadlock was continuing.

Talks between strike leaders and a Government delegation broke down yesterday after the authorities refused to accept the resignations of local government officials and to discuss the strikers' demands for the dismissal of more officials for alleged corruption and financial abuse. Talks of similar demands have also broken down in Jelenia Gora.

Meanwhile, Mr. Prier Jaroszewicz, the former Prime Minister, has been expelled from the Communist Party, the state radio said tonight.

The radio said Mr. Jaroszewicz, who was removed from office a year ago, had admitted that he was guilty of charges levelled at him by the party's Central Committee last autumn. These included economic errors, an arbitrary manner of govern-

ing and the refusal to heed justified criticism.

Mr. Jaroszewicz, aged 69, came to power in 1970 as the right-hand man of Mr. Edward Gierek, the former party leader.

The Central Committee, which has the power to approve leadership changes and vote on policy matters, is due to meet on Monday, a day before the Supreme Court is to rule on the legality of an independent farmers' union.

Mr. Stanislaw Kania, the Party leader, appears to be firmly opposed to a rural Solidarity union but the urban Solidarity movement has threatened to take strike action if the decision goes against the farmers.

The issue of the farmers' union was left unresolved after talks last weekend between the Government and Solidarity leaders which seemed to cool tempers and avert the threat of immediate confrontation. But less than a week after the two sides agreed on union access to the media and work-free Saturdays, the country is again simmering with protests, strikes and strike threats.

Last night, Mr. Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, told workers in Bielsko-Biala, where strikers have closed more than 120 industrial plants, to prepare for full-scale occupation of the factories if the authorities tried to use force.

It was not clear why Mr. Walesa had raised the possibility of what he called forcible attacks, and strike leaders in the province said today there were no fears of any immediate action by police or security forces.

In a brief communique, they said workers in the province, close to the Czechoslovak border, were more united than

ever and there were no plans for further talks.

In Jelenia Gora, another important industrial region close to the Czech border, a strike committee issued a statement giving the authorities until Monday to meet their demands and calling a general strike on the same day.—Reuter.

Crucial meeting: The Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party is to convene on Monday for a crucial session as the situation in Poland shows no signs of settling down and there are growing indications that the authorities are taking a firm stand against alleged "counter-revolutionary activity," (Dessa Trevisan writes from Belgrade).

The meeting is to decide on the date for an emergency party congress but there is talk of changes at the top of the party as it is becoming increasingly apparent that the leadership is divided resulting in the party showing little initiative.

Speaking to the party commission which is in charge of drafting a programme for the forthcoming congress, Mr. Kania described the situation as "extremely complex" and gave a warning of the danger of anarchy, and attempts to step up dual political power and bring tension to the limit of tolerance.

What must be done, he said, was to create a situation which would secure socialist development but at this moment there was a "threat from counter-revolution" coming from extremists within Solidarity. He admitted the party had not envisaged such a development when the Gdansk agreement was signed allowing the establishment of independent trade unions.

Britain's envoy 'interfered in Canada'

From John Best

Ottawa, Feb 5
The leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP), Mr. Edward Broadbent, today accused Sir John Ford, the British High Commissioner, of "intolerable interference" in Canadian affairs.

He also accused the High Commissioner of "lobbying" against the Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's constitutional reform package, and suggested that the Canadian Government should consider requesting his recall.

Mr. Broadbent based his accusation on a conversation just over a week ago between Mr. Ford and Mr. Ian Waddell, a Vancouver, NDP Member of Parliament.

The conversation took place at a skating party and dinner given by Mr. Edward Schreyer, the Canadian Governor-General. Mr. Waddell said that Mr. Ford told him Canadian politicians should know that the constitutional package was "no going through" the British Parliament.

He also quoted the High Commissioner as saying the amendments proposed by the NDP, to do with resource control, were "not good enough for the West".

The NDP is supporting the Trudeau constitutional measure but wants it changed to strengthen provincial jurisdiction over natural resources.

The package is opposed by the Liberal Conservative Opposition in the Commons and eight of Canada's 10 provinces. The measure under which the British Parliament would be asked to legislate a Bill of Rights and a constitutional amendment formula for Canada before surrendering all control over the country's constitution, is now before the committee in the Canadian Parliament.

Mr. Broadbent claimed that the actions of Sir John Ford, "arguing" with Canadian MPs over the constitutional issue represented "intolerable interference".

Asked whether he thought the Canadian Government should demand that Sir John Ford be recalled, Mr. Broadbent said there should be thorough representation that he "cease and desist".

Mr. Ford reacted by saying he was astonished by the charge which he suggested was "unfounded". He said he had never met Mr. Waddell, a Member of Parliament, and immediately what they asked to do by Canada.

Mr. Ford, at his own last called press conference, denied that he had acted indiscreetly. He said he had merely tried to impress on Mr. Waddell that would be a very great mistake for Canadians to assume that British MPs would do exactly and immediately what they asked to do by Canada.

OECD deplores overseas aid cuts by Britain

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 5
The cuts announced in Britain in overseas aid over the next four years has caused serious concern to the development community in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

A review of Britain's development assistance programme announced in Paris this week was clouded by the force of the cuts. The review, which is the latest in a series of reports on the country's aid programme, was published by a committee of the OECD.

While appreciating the economic difficulties faced by the United Kingdom, the committee regretted that aid had been reduced and that by comparison with other public expenditure categories it had been disproportionately large part of the overall cuts, its report said.

"In view of the urgent need of the developing countries receiving British aid, it urged the United Kingdom Government to make the volume of its aid stable in real terms and to resume progress as soon as possible. The committee expressed concern that cuts in aid of this magnitude would have a serious impact on the North-South dialogue."

The British delegation headed by Sir Peter Presto, Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Office's Overseas Development Administration, gave assurances that the new objectives which would give "more weight to political, industrial and commercial considerations" would still concentrate on the poorest developing countries.

Strike halts Belgian bus services

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Feb 5

The social unrest in Belgium, already beset by widespread stoppages in the loss-making steel and textile industries, was intensified today as 40,000 urban and local transport employees went on a 24-hour strike throughout the country.

In the capital, no trams or buses were running, although the Metro, surprisingly, continued to operate, despite disruption by some strikers lying on the rails. The national railway systems ran normally.

The strike was in support of union opposition to government plans to restrict all wage increases by law over the next two years to the level of inflation, thus freezing real incomes.

The pay restraint measures will go into effect on February 15 unless there is a voluntary wage restraint agreement before then.

So far the employers have rejected the terms demanded by the unions, who are asking that all wage rises already negotiated under collective bargaining agreements—these cover about 75 per cent of the workforce—should be honoured this year and followed by a freeze in 1982.

King praised for visit to the Basque country

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Feb 5

King Juan Carlos returned to Madrid today from a hectic and risky visit to the troubled Basque country which most Spanish commentators considered politically positive.

From beginning to end the King faced insults and apathy as well as some enthusiastic cheers and the tour was hardly a triumph in terms of popular support.

On the other hand, the King's courage in undertaking the journey must impress the Basque people.

The independent Madrid newspaper, *El Pais*, praised the King and Queen today for their calm and serenity.

Leading article, page 15

Role of Europe in East-West relations emphasized Franco-German summit opens in Paris amid denials that relations are cooler

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 5

The thirty-seventh Franco-German summit meeting opened in Paris today amid a spate of rumours of a distinct cooling of relations between Paris and Bonn.

Even if this were true, which is flatly denied in both capitals, it would not be the first time in the past 18 years, since the signature of the Franco-German treaty of 1963, that France and Germany had taken a different view of world problems. And it would not be the first time either that their differences involved the United States.

Soon after it came into being, the special relationship ran into very heavy water over the preamble voted to the treaty by the Bundestag, which insisted that it did not in any way affect Germany's commitment to NATO.

That prompted General de Gaulle's famous reference at the following Franco-German summit that "treaties, like roses, only last a certain time."

That was in the days of Dr Adenauer, whose relations with General de Gaulle were at least as close as those between President Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

Even afterwards, under Professor Erhard, when he was West German Chancellor, and for whom the general had little time, and tension over Britain's entry into the EEC ran high, the close links between Paris and Bonn endured, barring the

inevitable climacterics, because they were at least as necessary to Germany as they were to France.

Successful British governments which nursed the illusion that the West German government would be ready to sacrifice its ties with Paris to the cause of Britain's entry were wrong.

The need for the Franco-German special relationship is at least as great if not greater now than in the late 1960s. And the purpose of these Franco-German summits is precisely, as the Elysée spokesman aptly pointed out, to enable the two sides to reach a common analysis of significant issues.

These are the time East-West relations, in the context of the change of administration in the United States, and the explosive situation in Poland; the Afghan crisis, in the light of the French proposal for an international conference on non-interference; the contribution of Europe to the search for a settlement in the Middle East; and more generally, the need for it to make its weight felt more effectively in world affairs; and on the economic side, the difficulties arising from the weakness of the mark and the threat of Japanese competition.

Rumours of a cooling in Franco-German relations all hinge on the sharp stiffening of the American attitude towards Russia, and the different reactions it produced in Paris and Bonn.

President Giscard d'Estaing in his television interview last week expressed a "favourable presumption" in favour of President Reagan, and the American determination to re-assess leadership, the absence of which under his predecessor was criticized with increasing severity.

Herr Schmidt, on January 30, expressed serious reservations about the new American approach to Soviet military superiority over Russia, and said the federal republic had no intention of sacrificing Ostpolitik on its altar.

It was never denied in Paris that the two countries' appreciation of East-West problems, détente, and disarmament, was bound to differ because they find themselves in a different situation.

Détente, which President Giscard d'Estaing now prefers to call "stabilization" and non-interference, to recover the French foreign policy issue, for the Germans it is readily acknowledged here, they raise acute domestic problems because of their repercussions on relations between the two Germanies.

The same goes for the stationing of Euro missiles; but the nature of the Soviet threat, and the little room for manoeuvre which the tougher American policy towards Moscow leaves for Western Europe, reinforces the need for France and Germany to stand together on essentials.

Spanish clash on divorce

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Feb 5

The Spanish Roman Catholic hierarchy collided head on with a number of leading members of the Spanish Parliament here today, after the Permanent Committee of the Spanish Episcopate distributed a document condemning a proposed law which would make divorce possible in this country for the first time in more than four decades.

The bishops denied that divorce can be considered a human right and they insisted on the indissolubility of marriage. Their document said: "If the law to which we refer is passed in present form, the future of the family will be seriously prejudiced in Spain and the commonwealth of our society gravely damaged."

They particularly objected to divorce by mutual consent or any last certain time.

"Divorce," they said, "becomes an open doorway to the propagation of evil, rather than a remedy for the ills it is intended to alter."

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"Divorce," they said, "becomes an open doorway to the propagation of evil, rather than a remedy for the ills it is intended to alter."

Vatican bank official is arrested

From John Earle

Rome, Feb 5

Signor Luigi Mennini, the senior law manager at the Vatican's bank, the Institute for Religious Works, was arrested today on a charge of complicity in fraudulent bankruptcy. The warrant was issued on orders of a Milan magistrate investigating the collapse in 1974 of the Italian banks of Signor Michele Sindona, the Sicilian financier.

Signor Sindona, whose extradition to Italy by the British Government, is however serving a 25-year sentence in the United States for fraud and conspiracy in connection with the failure of his former bank, the Franklin National Bank of New York.

The Milan magistrate also issued two other warrants. One, for Signor Franco Giampietro, formerly of Signor Sindona's Banca Privata Finanziaria, was executed in Milan. The other is for Signor Ugo de Luca, formerly of another Sindona Bank, Banca Unione, who has fled.

The arrests were decided after the questioning of several of Signor Sindona's closest collaborators, including Signor Pina Santeramo, his son-in-law, and after a journey by two Milan magistrates to interrogate Signor Sindona in New York.

Signor Mennini was appointed as manager in charge of administration at the bank by Pope Paul VI in June 1963. He comes under the head of the bank, Bishop Paul Marcinkus, an American from Chicago.

Signor Sindona in his heyday in Italy had close connections with the Vatican, as well as with many Christian Democratic politicians. He helped the Holy See to diversify its Italian investments abroad.

White terror men held in S Africa

From Eric Magerlin

Johannesburg, Feb 5

The South African Government has taken action to stamp out terrorism by white right-wingers who have claimed responsibility for the bomb explosion at the offices of local politicians and academics.

Mr. Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Police, announced in Cape Town today that "a number of whites" have been arrested in connection with several acts of sabotage for which the Wit Kommando (white headed) had stated it was responsible.

The minister's statement said that security police had confiscated explosives and other equipment and subversive literature. It is the first big move the authorities have made to counter acts of violence by right-wing groups in recent months.

Mr. Le Grange listed among the acts of sabotage an explosion at the home of the Transkeian consul in Port Elizabeth, the office of a professor at the University of South Africa and an explosion at the home of Mr. Derrick Waterson, a provincial councillor in Durban.

The attack on Mr. Waterson's home was reported at the time to have been made as a protest against his support for mixed bathing on the Durban beaches. Nobody was hurt in the attack, which was reported to have been made mainly at gaining publicity.

Mr. Le Grange's statement said that the attacks had caused damage running into several thousands of rands.

Soldiers attack and rob Kampala residents

From Charles Harrison

Nairobi, Feb 5

Main government offices, the post office and other key installations in Kampala were under armed military guard today after groups of armed soldiers had broken into houses, beating and stealing from local residents, last night in Rubaga, a suburb only two miles from Central Kampala.

Mr. Paul Semogerere, leader of the opposition Democratic Party, who lives in Rubaga, said his house had been broken into and surrounded by soldiers last night. They fired into the air before breaking down doors, beating people and looting furniture and other goods.

It is believed the soldiers were retaliating for attacks on off-duty troops in the area. But Mr. Semogerere said one civilian had been killed and many others beaten or raped.

There was a tense atmosphere in Kampala today. Government officials were apparently trying to pacify the troops, who were reported to be angry at orders to leave the capital for duty in remote areas of northern Uganda.

British aid: The British Government approved a new grant of £150,000 to help starving people in the Karamoja region of Uganda after reports that conditions are deteriorating.

It will be used by the Save the Children Fund to transport 5,000 tons of food to the stricken area during February and March.

Dr Orlov starts hunger strike in Soviet prison

Moscow, Feb 5.—

Dr Yuri Orlov, the jailed Soviet human rights activist, has begun a hunger strike to mark the resumption of work at the Madrid conference on security and cooperation in Europe, dissident sources here said today.

The sources said the 56-year-old physician launched the hunger strike in the Perm detention camp in the Ural mountains.

Dr Orlov, a former leader of a Soviet group set up to monitor compliance with the Helsinki agreements, was sentenced in May 1978 to seven years' hard labour and five years' house arrest for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda"—Agence France-Presse.

Oil attracts job-seeking Africans to Nigeria

From Karan Thapar

Lagos, Feb 5

The Africans come in search of jobs, lured by the glitter of Lagos and the investment boom being experienced by the Nigerian economy. Some, like the 40,000 Chadian refugees, are escaping unhappy conditions at home, of them there are skilled or semi-skilled. To Nigerian employers they are useful because they will work at cheap rates and can be dismissed without notice.

To average Nigerians, however, these immigrants are less welcome. They are said to have "stolen" jobs from local people by working for less. There is therefore considerable popular resentment felt. In daily conversation they are blamed for prostitution, crime, beggary and even for the deteriorating civic hygiene of Lagos and the fast rising prices of food and other necessities.

Notwithstanding, the immigrants are openly contemptuous, while proud of the fact that Africans come to Lagos for work. The "aliens" as they are called, are simultaneously attacked for "spoiling the atmosphere".

Unfortunately, there are no reliable statistics on how many foreigners are resident in Nigeria. The latest calculation for 1979 gives the ridiculously low number of 45,000. There are probably over four times that number from Eswatini alone, and the total is continually growing.

Except for the Tuaregs, these immigrants are indistinguishable from Nigerians, and as they cross borders without formal passports there are no proper records kept of the influx.

This is no doubt why they were such an easy target for blame when the Kano riots occurred in December. Even President Shagari appeared to suggest that they had a hand in

the trouble; and a minister of state for internal affairs actually proposed compulsory identity cards for all "aliens" as a measure to enhance security.

The presence of fellow Africans in Nigeria in such large numbers is, of course, a reflection of this country's leading position in the continent. For the proud politician this is welcome proof of his exaggerated rhetoric. For the ordinary Nigerian it is evidence of the importance of Nigeria. Consequently, much as he may criticize and condemn the immigrants, their presence is necessary for the former sense of national significance as it is for the latter's physical and economic well-being.

As a leading Lagos academic put it: "Nigerians love to hate the immigrants, for in doing so they prove to themselves they are first in Africa."

Palermo, city of art

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OVERSEAS



Advice for promoter: Mr Harold Smith, the Los Angeles boxing promoter (above), who is being sued for \$21.3m (£9.14m) was publicly advised by Muhammad Ali, the former heavyweight champion, yesterday to "go right to the FBI before he talks to me". Mr Ali added at his home near Los Angeles: "I'm going to tell Harold: 'Don't talk to me'." He had been asked by journalists if he knew of Mr Smith's whereabouts. Mr Smith, chairman of Muhammad Ali Professional Sports Inc, has been named in a suit in which Wells Fargo National Bank claims it was defrauded of \$21.3m.

Mr Richard Cooley, the chairman of the Wells Fargo Bank of California, yesterday described as "preposterous" allegations by Mr Smith that bank officials were responsible for embezzling some \$200m to \$300m. Mr Smith claimed in telephone calls on Tuesday that he disappeared because he feared for his and his family's lives.

Chinese leaders show an image of unity

Peking, Feb. 5. — China's leaders belied persistent rumours about their disagreements by presenting a united image today, the Chinese New Year's Day.

Most significant was the re-appearance in public of Mr Hua Guofeng, the Communist Party chairman, after more than two months absence.

Last night, as firecrackers signalled the start of the Year of the Cockerel in the Chinese capital, Mr Hua, who is shortly to step down as chairman in favour of Mr Hu Yaobang, the party's Secretary-General, had a New Year's Eve dinner with Mr Hoang Van Hoan, a former member of the Vietnamese National Assembly, who defected to China in 1979.

Tonight, Chinese television showed film of the regime's strong man, Mr Deng Xiaoping, the party Vice-Chairman, attending a reception organized by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a body grouping non-Communist Party figures round a nucleus of party representatives.

The film put an end to speculation over the lack of news-paper coverage of Mr Deng's activities. Even General Chen Xilian, former Peking military commander who was removed from the Politburo last year, received a mention in the official press.

General Chen, one of those closest to Mr Hua and the Maoist heritage, now under attack as Mr Deng pursues his policy of minimizing the role of Mao Tse-tung, is still a member of the central committee.

Meanwhile, Mr Huang Zhen, aged 71, a veteran of the communist long march, has lost his post as Minister of Culture as part of a reorganization of that ministry into a watchdog body to supervise Chinese intellectuals and artists.

A New China news agency dispatch said today the Culture Ministry was now headed by Mr Zhou Weizhi, referred to as the "Acting Minister of Culture". It did not say when Mr Huang had left, but analysts said his departure, apparently for technical rather than political reasons, appeared to have come about recently.

The report said Mr Huang would become the head of a new organization, the Chinese Liaison Institute for Culture Abroad—Agence France-Presse.

Firework injuries: Fireworks have injured many people celebrating the Chinese New Year. The Peking Evening News said one city hospital treated 45 people last night for injuries from fireworks which can be bought in China without age restriction.—Reuters.

45 Pakistani emigrants die in boat

From Our Correspondent Islamabad, Feb. 5

At least 45 of a party of illegal Pakistani emigrants died of starvation and thirst at sea during a 23-day journey on a rickety launch between January 10 and February 2.

About 25 survivors, near to death, were rescued in the Arabian Sea by a United States naval supply ship on February 2 about 400 nautical miles south-west of Karachi. One died on board the American ship.

About 16 Pathans and more than 30 Sindhi Baluchi men, most of them under 30, were being taken on a private launch illegally to Dubai on the pretext that they would be able to get jobs there. The launch broke down a few hours after the journey began on January 10. Although the men tried to row the boat towards the shore, a storm pushed it away further into the open sea towards Muscat.

There have been a number of fatal incidents involving illegal emigrants to the Gulf and the Pakistani Government has taken many measures, including the employment of coastguards to prevent people leaving the country illegally in search of lucrative jobs in the Gulf states.

Luanda seeks ways to increase food production

Lack of incentives damages Angola

From Anthony Lewis Luanda, Angola, Feb. 5

Mr Roberto Dalmeida, the Planning Minister, searched for the right word in English to describe the Government's new approach to Angola's economic problems. He chose pragmatic.

People have to be motivated to work, he said, and gave as an example small farmers, who owned their own land. When the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola took power in 1975, it nationalized only farms abandoned by Portuguese settlers and large company-owned tracts—about 15 per cent of the land.

"We have been in a phase where small farmers wouldn't sell their crops for money because there was nothing to buy. They asked 'Why do I want money when I can't buy clothes with it?'—so they just grew enough for their own subsistence."

To give farmers incentives to grow cash crops, the Government urgently needed to build up a transport system and get goods to the villages. The Portuguese had left almost no lorries behind in 1975, and of those bought since then, many had been wrecked.

The Government intended to help small farmers by supplying seeds, fertilizer and insecticides through co-operatives. Until now agricultural investment had gone almost entirely into big state farms, Mr Dalmeida said. Food is Angola's biggest economic problem by far—90 per cent has to be imported.

Before independence Portuguese farmers here supplied much of the domestic market for corn, sugar and potatoes. They also grew large crops of

coffee and cotton for export. When the Portuguese left, production plunged—and, as officials acknowledge, the new Government's socialist policies have not helped.

Today Angola grows less than a fourth as much cotton and coffee as it did before 1975 and probably less of the food staples.

Because the towns have been short of food and the villages short of industrial goods, a system of barter has developed. People in the towns get whatever goods they can, drive out to the country and trade what they have for food, some of which they resell in the towns.

Mr Manuel Pedro Pacavira, the Agriculture Minister, has estimated that 50 per cent of the food grown in Angola is absorbed by barter trade or black market, which the authorities want to stamp out.

At a special congress held in Luanda last December, the ruling party made agricultural development its priority. Mr Dalmeida said the aim was self-sufficiency in food.

One way of improving the economic situation is to hire more managers and technicians from abroad.

A Scandinavian here said: "There are some people not caring. People have nothing much to buy, so they don't see why they should work to earn money. A lot of people wish the Americans would come and start organizing things."

"The Government makes no secret of the need for foreign experts—not just executives but electricians, telephone workers, hotel managers and tyre makers. Some who have come

here, but so far not very many, are Americans."

A Brazilian company has a contract to refurbish and manage Luanda's two operating hotels and another that is out of commission. French experts are going to advise the state farm managers on grain production and West German pilots fly the Angolan Airlines Boeing 707s and 737s. Volvo and Fiat cars and an East German company are training motor mechanics—and perhaps they will repair Luanda's mostly inoperative fleet of Mercedes taxis.

The big American company here is Gulf Oil, which pumps oil from offshore wells in Cabinda, an enclave separated from the rest of Angola by a bit of Zaïre. Mr Thomas King, the Gulf manager here, said he was optimistic about business prospects.

"We do have some frustrations, but you have those anywhere in the world. It's no different from our operations elsewhere, except that supplies are spread a little thinly. You have to have a greater degree of self-sufficiency," he said.

Gulf has 100 foreign regular employees here and 140 more Portuguese under contract. It employs 350 Angolans and is starting a programme to train them for more skilled oil operations.

Texaco is negotiating a pre-independence oil agreement with Angola, and two French companies, Total and Elf, won concessions last year to explore offshore.

Angola is considering whether to join the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The New York Times News Service.

Ecuador says Peru broke ceasefire pact

Lima, Feb. 5.—Peru and Ecuador yesterday sent international observers back to their disputed border zone to verify that their troops were maintaining a ceasefire.

In Quito, the Ecuadorian capital, President Jaime Roldos accused Peru of violating the ceasefire agreement by flying transport aircraft over the region with the intention of landing troops at its border posts. Peru has denied this.

In Lima, the Peruvian Armed Forces gave the first details of military action.

The command said one Peruvian was killed and six were wounded, and Ecuador suffered "some casualties".—AP.

Salvador volcano battle

San Salvador, Feb. 5.—At least 45 people have been killed in El Salvador in a two-day battle between guerrillas and government troops for control of a volcano used as a beacon for rebel supply drops, witnesses said today.

Officials also reported 40 political killings in the past 24 hours, including seven young men kidnapped and shot dead by right-wing "death squads" in the San Salvador suburb of Casacahuate.

Local residents described the fighting for control of Conchagua volcano on the edge of the Gulf of Fonseca in south-eastern El Salvador.

In Washington, the State Department has announced that Mr Frederic Chapin, a senior Defence Department official

handling Latin American security policy, has been named Charge d'Affaires at the American Embassy in San Salvador until a new Ambassador can be named.

Authorities here said the bodies of at least 24 men and two women, several of them tortured, were found shot dead yesterday in San Salvador and the western provincial capital of Santa Ana, a rightist "death squad" stronghold.

In San Martin, 12 miles east of San Salvador, government troops fought guerrillas.

Leftists allege that Guatemalan troops are fighting alongside El Salvador's Army in an effort to stamp out the Marxist insurgents struggling to overthrow the Junta.—UPI.

FOREIGN REPORT

Even the poor in Algeria are happier at lifting of restrictions

In Algeria it seems every good deal of food has to be imported and with the food, inflation is brought into the country. This is now running officially at around 12 per cent, but some estimates put it as high as 17 per cent. Meat in four towns cost as much as 70 dinars a kilogramme (about £3.50 a pound) and most families can only afford it on special occasions.

By the turn of the century it is predicted that the population will have doubled. Inevitably the population explosion has caused serious problems—it is responsible for the housing crisis, the shortage of jobs and the near collapse of the administration in some departments which have become swamped with work.

The Government is not well-equipped to deal with the inevitable problems of a birth bunched and bunched as it has been by the demands of a system based on dogmatic socialism, it has not had the necessary suppleness to adapt rapidly.

One obvious problem is that of feeding the population. Despite the agrarian revolution, which was officially brought into being in November, 1971, the country is still far from being self-sufficient in food—although in fact it is not so far as it seems. Strides are being made to achieve this.

In the meantime, however, a good deal of food has to be imported and with the food, inflation is brought into the country. This is now running officially at around 12 per cent, but some estimates put it as high as 17 per cent. Meat in four towns cost as much as 70 dinars a kilogramme (about £3.50 a pound) and most families can only afford it on special occasions.

With training, the huge young population could provide the workforce needed to exploit the Algerian potential for industrial development. Diversification away from near total reliance on gas and oil as a money earner is essential if the economy is to develop. But training places are so far insufficient, with preference apparently given to children whose parents work for one of the big nationalised industries that control every important industry.

Another problem has been that the socialist character of the economy has tended to put off potential investors from the West—certainly this is the case with Britain.

This outlook and image of the country was very much the creation of President Boumedienne, who ruled very strongly from the centre. An undoubtedly brilliant man, he inspired something akin to fear even in his closest associates. When he died there was a deep-felt desire among the

sil-important senior Army officers for a more flexible leadership, away from the total Muslim puritanism and socialist theory which had dominated the Boumedienne regime.

So the Army put forward Chadli Bendjedid and their support was enough to defeat the claims of the supposed heir apparent, Muhammad Yahyaoui, who if anything is more strict and orthodox than a Muslim and socialist than Boumedienne had been.

President Chadli has already shown himself to be more flexible. "He has no personal dislike of private property," one diplomat has said of him. He is a pragmatist with no liking for "isms", preferring order and work to wall slogans.

It would be wrong, however, to think that he is likely to move away from the socialist system, which is now a deeply rooted fact of life. If he has reduced the powers of the executive bodies like the Central Committee of the FLN (the only legal party in Algeria), and the politburo, he has shown every sign of wanting to exploit the advantages of the nationalised societies.

At the same time he is prepared to tolerate and even encourage what are termed "the allies of the revolution" in the "non-exploiting" sectors of retail, agriculture and tourism. One of his close associates in the Cabinet has gone on record as saying that

"sometimes competition does not harm". There is a growing acceptance of the belief that it is unrealistic to expect everything from the state.

The President has made it clear that he wants to balance the economy by the end of the 24,000m five-year plan which was agreed at the end of last year. He has, however, said: "The high standards of living the people are looking for are not for tomorrow."

The people nevertheless seem to be happier already and everyone seems to talk about the more liberal feel of the Government. The removal of restrictions limiting trips out of the country has been welcomed, even by those who cannot afford to travel. The lifting of restrictions on buying land is appreciated, though few can afford to do so.

The new President has had to face industrial disputes, university riots and Berber risings in his term of office, but he has succeeded in calmly taking the steam out of the situations by patient explanations.

His personal belief in Islam lacks the almost fanatical strength of his predecessor, but at the same time he has been steeped in a feeling for his religion from childhood. The result is that his emphasis is less on an Islamic federation than on national traditions.

One example is the appointment of a new minister to deal with popular arts. The Queen,

during her recent visit, was taken, not to see a heavy industry factory as would have happened in the days of Boumedienne, but to see a craft workshop.

The new President, for all that he appears to have made a favourable impression with the people, still lacks the presence of his predecessor. The tragedy of the earthquake of El Asnam has given him the opportunity to show a lead. By using the 85,000-strong Army—which originally gave him power—to help in the disaster area, and by promising to spend £400m building a new prefabricated town of 40,000 homes, he has struck a chord with the population.

For the twentieth anniversary of independence in 1982, he has called for a new history of the country to be prepared. Current history books do not even mention the name of the first President and resistance leader, Ben Bella, who was arrested in 1965, so the bulk of the young population scarcely know he existed.

President Chadli himself made no reference at all to his predecessor in his last state of the nation speech. The signs are, therefore, that when the new official history appears, the name of Ben Bella will reappear and the name of Boumedienne will not loom quite so large.

Ian Murray

Between three and 20 laser-armed satellites needed to cover the earth

The United States Air Force recently announced the successful test of a laser beam capable of destroying intercontinental ballistic missiles.

It has also been disclosed that the space shuttle, the American reusable space ship, due to make its first flight this year, will be used to test an aiming and tracking device, considered essential if the laser is to become an effective weapon of destruction.

Last December a Senate committee urged the Government to accelerate its research into laser weapons because, it was claimed, the Soviet Union might have already begun developing an operational system. Such prompting should find a willing audience in the White House where President Reagan is said to favour a crash research programme. There is talk, however, of a programme as intense as the Manhattan Project, which produced the atomic bomb to end the Second World War.

Are we then, as some commentators believe, on the threshold of an age in which directed energy weapons like the laser or, more futuristically, the particle beam, will cause a fundamental review of the strategic balance and the weapons which preserve it? The technical feasibility of the laser weapon has long been proven. The American Air Force exhibited parts of target aircraft shot down by a laser's high intensity light beam at last year's Farnborough Air Show—along with the model of a KC135 aircraft converted to carry out associated tests from the air.

As a means of destroying enemy satellites or ballistic

missiles shortly after launch and before their multiple warheads have disengaged it is in space that the laser weapon has its most promising application. There, the concept of a weapon orbiting the earth, its beam darting with the speed of light from target to target without the attenuating effect of the atmosphere, has an obvious theoretical attraction for defence scientists.

The engineering obstacles, however, remain daunting. Between three and 20 laser-armed satellites would be needed to cover the earth, depending on the orbit chosen—and only one of these would probably be in the right position at the right time.

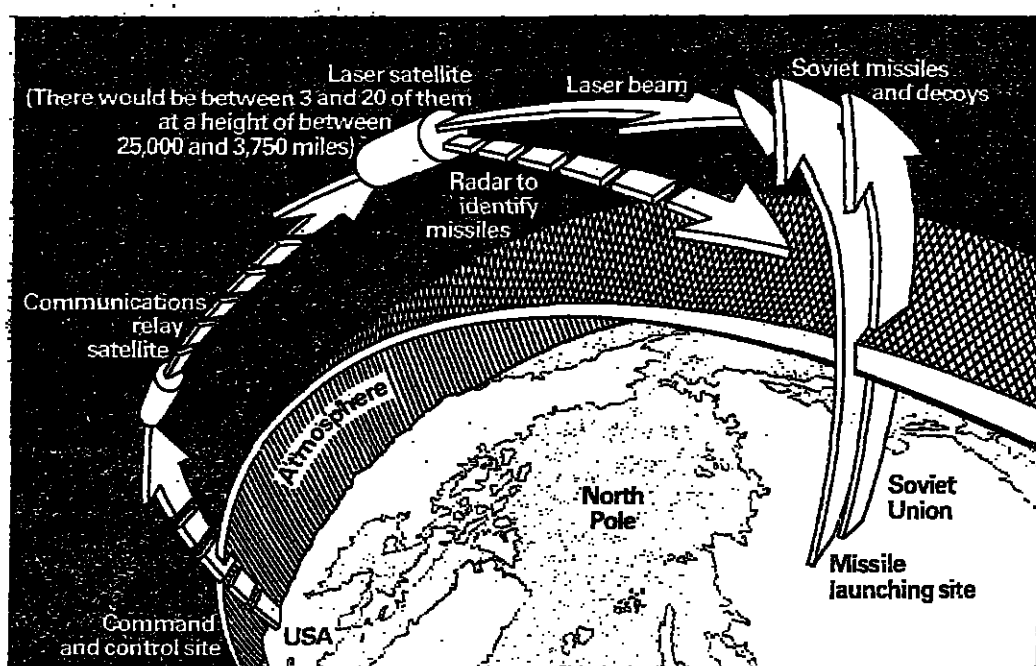
Each satellite might need to be up to 10 times bigger than any space station so far launched, and would need to cover ranges of up to 25,000 miles (again depending on the orbit).

There is a "trade-off" between the numbers of satellites and the range they have to cover—the higher the orbit, the fewer are needed, but the greater the range.

A laser is not particularly efficient in that about 90 per cent of its energy is dissipated in waste heat. To penetrate the skin of a modern missile one would need to supply it with a power of about 1,000 megawatts at any given time. The average output of the London Electricity Board is only 700 megawatts higher than that, so the plant required to generate such power in space would be enormous—hence the size of the satellite.

The obvious response of a counter-attack by a third power would be to toughen the skin of its missiles, so even this power requirement could soon become outdated.

Like all weapons a laser would need to detect its target, then track it and "inform" its command and control unit on



the ground whether it had scored a hit and how much damage had been inflicted. As an anti-ballistic missile system it would have time for only one "shot" anyway.

Unlike a missile, a laser has to be accurate to within a couple of metres. A missile can destroy another missile by the use of a proximity fuse, so that it need be accurate only to within a few miles. But a laser beam is very narrow and has to be if it is to concentrate its power to burn through a metallic target.

Lasers could be mounted on aircraft, of jumbo size probably, and this would simplify the engineering problems. The beam would then have to combat the effects of the atmosphere and a fleet of aircraft would be required.

An aircraft—or a space station for that matter—would itself become a target for the

enemy and would need substantial protection from fighters or hunter-killer satellites.

Britain and France have conducted feasibility studies on laser weapons, and the French are carrying out a series of studies of their possible use to protect their own land-based missiles from a pre-emptive strike. But only the superpowers seem to have the resources to overcome all the various obstacles.

These obstacles are by no means insuperable. Few seriously doubt that an intensive research programme could overcome them. As an anti-satellite system, the laser weapon looks unlikely to be as cost-effective as more conventional means of destruction. As an anti-ballistic missile defence, however, it has undoubted potential because no other satisfactory system has been found.

On the question of arms control, the Outer Space Treaty of

1967 expressly forbids the destruction of satellites by any kind of weapon. The anti-ballistic missile treaty, which was signed as part of SALT in 1972 also prohibits the deployment of either lasers or particle beam weapons in an anti-missile role. However, this treaty does not ban their development and how long the treaty would remain effective if an effective system could be produced is another matter.

Mr Hans Mark, who was Air Force Secretary in the Carter Administration, has already predicted that laser weapons will form an important part of the American strategic arsenal during the next decade. Many believe that he will be proved right. But should he sound quite so confident—and so keen?

Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

Isolation gives shrill edge to Grenada's defences

Nearly two years after experiencing the English-speaking Caribbean's first coup, the tiny island of Grenada is virtually isolated from its neighbours. President Reagan's arrival in the White House, an American invasion.

On the face of it, there is little reason why the United States should worry over one small Cuban protégé in the eastern Caribbean, an island of 110,000 people where the revolutionary Government begs the people to welcome the cruise ships that regularly swing into the beautiful, billowing harbour of the capital, St George's.

In the last year or so, the Caribbean's flirtation with left-wing politics, which gained momentum after Mr Maurice Bishop and his New Jewel Movement overthrew Grenada's eccentric leader Sir Eric Gairy, has cooled.

In March 1979, his cooled, island after island, election results have produced a march back to safe, tried Westminster systems and conservative leaderships.

With the fall of Mr Michael Manley in Jamaica last October, Grenada lost its one real ally apart from Cuba. The year ended with a vicious slanging match between Mr Bishop and Mr Tom Adams, Prime Minister of Barbados, who thought it was time Grenada held elections. The rest of the anglophone islands have kept their distance; in

Port of Spain, Dr Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad, will not even open Mr Bishop's letters.

Isolation has given a shrill edge to Grenada's defence. Grenada's island enemies are detected, waiting to pounce. Nor is Mr Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) entirely imagining them. It can point to two attempted counter-coups, a string of shootings, and an attempt to blow up most of the Cabinet at a mass rally last June.

But Grenada's hostility strengthens the PRG's missionary resolve. It provides extra justification for "keeping detainees locked up without trial; about 100, perhaps 40 of whom have been there since the takeover."

It is used to back up Mr Bishop's argument that elections are not a priority. Conventional campaigning would be a dangerous business of transforming an underdeveloped island society into a productive, self-reliant proud community. The PRG, Mr Bishop argues, already has sufficient mandate for that in the popular support that certainly exists.

The PRG, in its assault on the Caribbean's perennial problems of poverty, dependence, and underdevelopment, is

attempting the first real break with the traditional laissez-faire politics of the anglophone Caribbean. It is steadily reducing the 50 per cent unemployment it inherited from Sir Eric Gairy, pushing the island back into production, and getting a slack and stagnant economy under control in a way that has impressed even the International Monetary Fund.

It has attracted more than £30m in aid from a wide range of donors—from the West, the Middle East and the Soviet Block. Except for hardcore terrorist opposition, the political violence of the late Gairy years has gone. Medical care is free, there has been long overdue educational reform, and the PRG is attempting to build a rudimentary village democracy which might well replace the inherited Westminster structure.

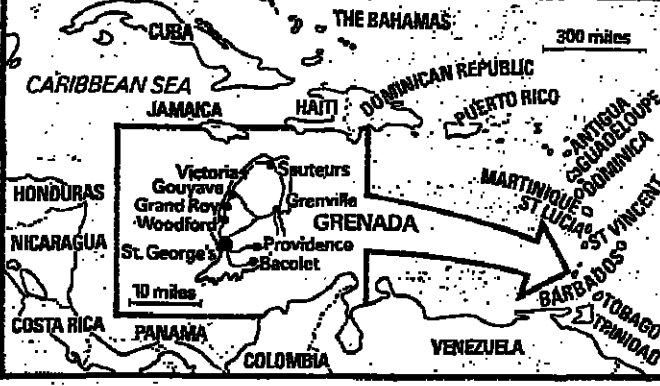
But the Caribbean, like Britain and the United States, is not much impressed. When Mr Bishop came to power, he promised early elections, and has broken his promise. The process of putting detainees on trial has been slow. Hyper-sensitive to detractors of the revolution, the PRG has kept a lid on independent media and opposition parties. It has brought in, with a show of reluctance, "terrorism" which introduces the death penalty.

The anglophone Caribbean like none of this, nor Grenada's politicized army and voluntary militia. Still less does it like the close alliance with Cuba, which has provided extraordinarily generous subsidies to build Grenada a new international airport, and its 200 or so technicians, including hardworking doctors and dentists, have made a strong impression. The two islands have abolished visas for each other's people.

The PRG now looks for its allies not to Kingston and Port of Spain, but to Havana and to the Sandinistas' Nicaragua. It tends to follow a Moscow line, for example, on Afghanistan. To the rest of the English-speaking islands, this is anathema. There is talk of excluding Grenada from Caricom, the Caribbean Community.

Grenada's is essentially a nationalist revolution, clearly capable of mobilizing its population. Isolation and hostility are driving the island out of its natural alliances, out of the range of traditional influences, and into a defensive reliance on Havana. In this way, the West and the Caribbean may be repeating exactly the same mistake that was made over Cuba, 20 years earlier.

Jeremy Taylor



PARLIAMENT, February 5, 1981

Mrs Thatcher says it is unlikely that neutron bombs would need to be based in Britain

House of Commons
The suggestion that the United States administration might wish to return to the development of the so-called neutron bomb was extremely dangerous and serious, Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said during questions to the Prime Minister.

Mr Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab) said: One aspect in this matter which would be extremely dangerous for everyone in Europe would be that it could reduce the level of the nuclear threshold. That should be an overriding consideration.

What steps will the Government be taking to try and ensure that this kind of weapons are never stationed in Europe at all?

Mrs Margaret Thatcher (Barnes, Finchley, C): It is clear that this is one of the possibilities that the new United States administration may want to consider.

We have so far not been asked to look at any new proposal, but the United States Defence Secretary (Mr Casper Weinberger) in his press conference said the allies would be fully consulted before any decision was reached.

Mr Foot: Will this House be asked?

Mrs Thatcher: That is not wholly a matter for me, but I have no doubt that the matter would come up on many occasions here.

Mr Frank Aitken (Salford, East, Lab) Does she accept that countries with differing political systems have to live or die together? Will she tell President

Reagan that if he wants to relax east-west tensions...
A Conservative MP: Tell Brezhnev about that.

Mr Robert Crier (Kelley, Lab): Don't be stupid, you fat faced wit. (Conservative protest.)

Mr Allan: Will she tell President Reagan that the use of such weapons as chess, liars and criminals, and the deployment of the neutron bomb, are not the way to relax tensions, particularly since Russia would not doubt follow suit in the introduction of the neutron bomb?

Mrs Thatcher: I am certain that Russia has as many nuclear weapons as she wishes to have.

Reagan that the use of such weapons as chess, liars and criminals, and the deployment of the neutron bomb, are not the way to relax tensions, particularly since Russia would not doubt follow suit in the introduction of the neutron bomb?

On the neutron bomb, its purpose is to attack massive concentrations of armaments which the Warsaw Pact countries have, and it would be unlikely that such weapons would need to be based here.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Wandsworth, Battersea, South, Lab): When she goes to Washington to meet President Reagan, will she impress on him that the people of this country and the whole of Europe, and the whole of the world, are concerned with the increasing spread into nuclear weapons and impress on him the need to consider coming back to Salt 2 and perhaps

Salt 3, which is a better way forward than facing yet another horrible weapon?

Mrs Thatcher: When I see President Reagan I shall tell him I believe that the vast majority of people in this country are anxious to have proper deterrence to the weapons which the Soviet Union has, and has in such abundance.

The first duty of a Government is to defend and protect its own people. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend, East, C) asked the Home Secretary what percentage change had taken place in the number of offences and crimes involving the use of firearms over the past 10 years.

Mr Whitelaw (Pembroke, C): The number of serious offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in 1979, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said during questions.

He announced that the British Shooting Sports Council had agreed voluntarily to introduce, at his request, a code of practice on the security of firearms in private hands.

Mr Taylor: These are disturbing and alarming figures. Has he been able to identify the particular reasons for this sharp increase in the use of firearms, whether airguns, pistols or shotguns? Has he been able to identify the particular reasons for this sharp increase in the use of firearms, whether airguns, pistols or shotguns? Has he been able to identify the particular reasons for this sharp increase in the use of firearms, whether airguns, pistols or shotguns?

Mr Whitelaw: There has been over the same period a considerable increase in crime of all sorts and all kinds, and the figures against the British Shooting Sports Council, which will be affected.

We have to take every other method to make sure firearms do not get into the wrong hands.

Mr Stanley Newman (Harlow, Lab): Access to firearms is an important factor in the use of violence. There is a strong case, in view of the figures, for tightening the requirements for the issue of shotgun licences.

Mr Whitelaw: I am having a review of firearms and shotgun certificates.

Mr Eileen Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C): Can he confirm that the more the police are used in the commission of crimes, the more the police are forced themselves to take firearms and to seek to maintain the peace.

In particular, would he say what he is doing about replicas and the use of replicas in the commission of crime?

Mr Whitelaw: On his first point, I accept this is very worrying and I have written to Mr Griffiths about it a day or two about replica guns.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): In many cases the shotgun has been used in the commission of crime. Is it not the case that the shotgun is a very dangerous weapon?

Mr Whitelaw: The people who are using shotguns are in no way different from the people who are using any other type of weapon. The British Shooting Sports Council, which is a voluntary body, is introducing a code of practice on the security of firearms in private hands.

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Adoption of code for security of firearms

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Moderating wage settlements and lowering inflation provide chance for expansion

The four key elements in the Government's economic strategy were set out by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, in a speech to the House of Commons.

The speech, which was the first since she became Prime Minister, outlined the Government's strategy for reducing inflation and creating jobs.

The three other aspects were a sustained effort to reduce pressure on the economy created by excessive Government spending; the need for unit labour costs to be competitive with those of rivals in order to secure more jobs; and the need for the Government to set the right economic framework.

Two new enterprises, announced, would be at Hartlepool and at South Kirby in West Yorkshire.

Mrs Thatcher (Barnes, Finchley, C) moved a motion of confidence in the Government's economic and industrial policies.

She said the Government's strategy remained the conquest of inflation. It would be achieved by a more radical approach to the economy.

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had been tight and had helped reduce inflation. Over the last six months, retail prices had risen by 3.7 per cent only though this figure understated the underlying rise because of the pattern of price increases during the year.

The second aspect of the Government's strategy was a sustained effort to reduce pressure on the economy created by excessive Government spending.

Unless this is done (she said) there just will not be room for the private sector to prosper and to create jobs.

An overburdened public sector, financed by an overburdened and overtaxed private sector, struggling to keep its costs to the minimum would be another recipe for unemployment.

The Government had made some progress in reducing the size of the public sector but because of the effects of the recession, there had been a considerable increase in public expenditure, particularly on nationalised industries and unemployment benefits.

However, we shall (she continued) come out of the recession with a substantial reduction in the underlying level of public expenditure.

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intervening in the exchange rate. Intervention could not resist the market for very long.

They did not know the precise relationship between interest rates and the exchange rate. They would bear the high exchange rate in mind when taking other decisions.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): It's the same old story. Mrs Thatcher: Of course it is. The truth usually is the same old story. (Loud Conservative cheers.)

Mr Skinner: The truth

Cinematic magic of Tarkovsky's dreadful vision

1

Shirley Williams on Britain's vital role in the EEC

Why we must not retreat from Europe

The Common Agricultural Policy, in its present absurdly expensive form has soured the attitude of the British public to the European Community but it is not the only reason why Britain has been at best a reluctant partner in the Community. It is easy for Britain to underestimate the greatest achievement of the Community's creators, to make another civil war between Western European countries unthinkable. Furthermore, the timing of Britain's entry into the Community could hardly have been more unfortunate.

Britain joined in the very year, 1973, that Western economic prospects began to darken. The Community has been held responsible for rising inflation, deepening recession and the other economic disasters of these past seven years, often quite unjustly. Certainly the Common Agricultural Policy contributed to higher food prices, but its contribution was much less significant than other factors such as increased energy costs between 1973 and 1980, the CAP added about 9 per cent to food prices which rose by nearly 200 per cent overall.

There is another reason, however, and it is an ironic one. Britain seems to have deliberately made the least possible use of the opportunities offered to her by the Community. The British citizen receives only half as much Community spending per head as the average Community citizen. This was due partly to lack of knowledge among local authorities and others entitled to claim help about the opportunities available, though they are now better informed, and partly to the British Government's unwillingness to stump up its share of social and regional expenditure.

Nor has Britain shown much interest in reforms that might

Shirley Williams: the Community is the only political entity in the world strong enough to make the superpowers take multilateral disarmament seriously...

have been expected to attract the attention of Socialists if not of Conservatives—for example the fifth directive on industrial democracy which requires that workpeople be represented on the boards of large companies or the code of conduct for multinational companies which requires that employees should be given much more information about the conduct, plans and financial conditions of the companies concerned. The Commission has also pressed for equal pay and equal working conditions for men and women. Under the Lomé convention which includes the associated countries in Africa and the Caribbean, the Community has undertaken to stabilize the incomes of primary producers. Socialists might be expected to support all these measures, but most Socialist members of the European Parliament do so. But the British ones get little encouragement from Westminster or from the Labour Party. The Community has much more weight in international negotiations on commerce and trade than any of its individual members, and it could have considerable political



weight as well. The first steps have been taken to establish a dialogue with the Arab states and even with the Palestine Liberation Organization to explore the chances of a lasting and peaceful settlement in the Middle East. If the Community realized the potential of being a 'coherent entity' in world affairs it could alter the forbidding prospects the world now faces. The Community could not bring about a trans-formation of the economic order, but it could propose a plan based on the Brandt Commission. Such a plan might embody the idea

that a small percentage of each country's Gross National Product, perhaps 1 per cent, should be earmarked for aid to the Third World. Until that step is taken, there will be neither a guarantee of continuity of funds nor a structure of redistribution of wealth on however modest a scale between nations as there is within nations. The European Community could also become a force for disarmament, and one that must seek peace, for in any major nuclear war its destruction would be certain. The only significant recent initiative towards peace that serious-

ly interested the Soviet Union was the visit by Helmut Schmidt, speaking on behalf of the Community, to Moscow in June 1980, which led to an agreement with President Brezhnev to discuss the possibility of a mutual withdrawal of medium-range nuclear weapons from Europe. Until the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the strikes in Poland, Germany's Ostpolitik had been notably successful in easing tensions along the border between the Soviet bloc and the Nato bloc. But Ostpolitik would not have been possible without the Federal Republic's membership of the

European Community. Any rapprochement with the German Democratic Republic would have aroused intense suspicion in West Germany as much as elsewhere, that the two German states were seeking to re-unite.

The Community is the only political entity in the world strong enough to make the superpowers take multilateral disarmament seriously.

One argument for unilateral nuclear disarmament is that it would make the disarmed country a safer place, less likely to be attacked. It is surely clear that means would still need to be found to influence the superpowers towards peace, since any nuclear exchange between them would cause great destruction throughout the world. That is why the European Community's role in seeking détente in Europe and in pursuing arms limitation is more important for world peace than unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The next few years will bring about important internal changes in the European Community. Britain has an opportunity that will not recur to influence these changes so that the Community becomes more responsive to the needs of the people within it, as well as to the world outside. International tensions could be heightened by a right-wing American President surrounded by advisers who believe in a strong military posture and by the strains of deciding upon a successor to Mr Brezhnev at a time of turbulence in eastern Europe. The Community is going to be badly needed as a force for peace and stability. For Britain to contemplate changes in it is sensible. But for Britain to withdraw would be to abdicate from responsibility at a dangerous time.

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Will Europe's Middle East initiative ever take off?

Brussels

Later this month Mr Christopher Van de Klauw, the Dutch Foreign Minister, and current president of the EEC's Council of Ministers, will set forth on a tour of 14 countries in the Middle East in search of a peace-making role for the Community which has so far shown all the elusive substance of a desert mirage.

It was last June in Venice that EEC heads of government issued their now famous declaration on the Middle East setting out the principles which they considered must form the basis of any lasting settlement between Arab and Jew.

This was to be followed by talks with all the countries concerned in the light of which the Nine, since grown to ten would "determine the form which an initiative on their part could take". More than seven months later the shape of this promised initiative remains indistinct to say the least.

The first diplomatic soundings were conducted last August and September by Mr Gaston Thorn, now President of the European Commission but at that time still Foreign Minister of Luxembourg. Mr van der Klauw will be seeking more detailed reactions to the theoretical work the EEC has done in the meantime on approaches to a peace settlement.

What the Ten still have to do is to go beyond the obvious, theoretical solutions, they have anything concrete to contribute. European criticism of the shortcomings of the American-sponsored Camp David talks between Egypt and Israel may be entirely valid, but it has yet to be demonstrated that any other negotiating process would produce appreciably better results.

That was the constant if generally sotto voce complaint of the Americans under President Carter, and it is likely to be much amplified by President Reagan, particularly if new life is breathed into the moribund Camp David exercise. The Camp David concept of Palestinian autonomy within a framework determined by Egypt and Israel and ultimately Jordan might still lead nowhere in the end. But for a time it could well appear to be making progress, making the Community's efforts seem increasingly tangential and irrelevant.

In those circumstances the EEC could be faced with a choice of either accepting that there was nothing useful it could do (and thus losing all credibility in the Arab world) or else dissociating itself much more sharply than hitherto from American policy. The latter course might well appeal to the French, but the British certainly. Academics and Germanys probably would see little to be gained from an open breach with Washington.

The two main points of disagreement are the Europeans' insistence that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) must be "associated" with the peace negotiations, and that the Palestinian people as a whole must be able to exercise the right of "self-determination", which is taken to mean the right to a separate state.

On the first, the Americans take the view that it is simply not realistic to expect an Israeli government, of any political

colour, to treat with the PLO, which is seen in Israel as the terrorist organization bent on the destruction of the Jewish state.

On the second, the Americans do not find the introduction of the concept of self-determination helpful at this stage since it appears to open the way to ambiguous solutions, such as joint Israeli-Jordanian custodianship of the West Bank, which Mr Peres is known to favour and which they appear to think they might be able to talk an admittedly unenthusiastic King Hussein into accepting.

The basis for Mr van der Klauw's talks with Arab and Israeli leaders as he travels through the Middle East will be a confidential document setting out a range of options under four main headings: Israeli withdrawal, self-determination, security guarantees and the status of Jerusalem. His task will be to try to identify those offering the most possibilities for compromise.

The starting-point, in the EEC's view, must be a phased withdrawal by Israel over two years from the occupied territories of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, with security being maintained by an international force under United Nations control.

The EEC accepts that full Palestinian independence would have to be preceded by some kind of transitional arrangement—possibly administrative autonomy under locally elected mayors—subject to international supervision. But the Community's ideas are still vague.

The range of suggestions for the status of Jerusalem include internationalization (either of the whole city or only the old quarter containing the holy places), partition, an Arab-Israeli condominium and a joint municipality run by locally elected representatives.

Under the security heading, Mr van der Klauw will invite suggestions on the demarcation of demilitarized zones, limiting the size of armed forces, and the role that the EEC might play in helping to provide international guarantees of mutually recognized borders.

Michael Hornsby



Geoffrey Smith

Taking a turn for the better

The search for the middle ground has, suddenly become fashionable again in British politics. Since the last election the battle between the parties has seemed to be a contest between the ideologues on both sides. But now the rise of the social democrats is changing the picture. Already the threat of a split in his party has forced Mr Michael Foot perhaps to modify and certainly to equivocate on some of his policies, and the natural electoral tactic for Labour will be to take further steps back towards the middle in order to cut the ground from under the new party once it is formed.

A frisson of anxiety is evident in the Conservative ranks as well. Ronald Butt argued on this page yesterday that they really have little to fear from the social democrats. That may be so. Certainly the Tories have no reason to be alarmed by the prospect of tactical voting by former supporters of theirs in favour of a social democrat in what are now Labour constituencies. And if there is to be an electoral pact with the Liberals, which the social democrats clearly want, they will have to stand down in favour of a Liberal candidate in many of the most vulnerable Conservative marginals in southern England.

Yet it is undeniable that the Conservatives do see a threat from the social democrats. Why else should

that acute tactician, the chairman of the party, Lord Thorneycroft, have been telling the House of Lords on Wednesday how proud and happy he was to see the party securely placed on the "broad central ground of politics today"? We even had a scathing reference in passing to "rabid monetarists". That hardly sounded like the doctrine according to Sir Keith Joseph.

If the Conservatives are to clamber back on to the middle ground, how should they set about it? It is more a matter of style than of substance. Mrs Thatcher has been so busy proclaiming that "the lady's not for turning" that many people have not appreciated just how pragmatic this Government has become. The Prime Minister's television interview with Mr Brian Walden on *Weekend World* last Sunday was a case in point. The stock market picked up the hint of a possible further cut in interest rates, even though the money supply is not yet under control. But most reports of that interview concentrated on her determination not to renege: "This is just the time when we have to stay on course and say, we are a government that's set out to do long-term things."

In other words, on specifics she indicated that she was pragmatic, but the general impression conveyed was one of unwavering fixity of purpose. There have been quite a few other specifics where the Government has been pragmatic. There is the money

poured out for British Leyland and British Steel, with Sir Keith Joseph of all people unable to give an assurance in the Commons last week that this would be the last payment to BL.

Largely because of these demands from publicly owned industry the Government has been unable to cut public expenditure as it had intended: the plans left behind by Labour have been reduced, but not the absolute level of spending. A half share in British Aerospace is now to be sold off to private investors, but there is no sign yet that the role of the public sector in the British economy will be of less consequence by the next election than it was at the last.

There is now an incomes policy of a kind in the public sector, though not in the private sector. The Government's essays in the contentious field of trade union law reform have been moderate. The public sector borrowing requirement is well above target, and the money supply is out of control according to the government's own most favoured indicator, M3, though ministerial preference for that indicator has been modified by its continued refusal to give the expected answers. This last instance is, though, an example only of accidental pragmatism since the last thing the Government intended was to let the money supply rise as it has.

On the whole, this Government has been nearly as pragmatic in its deeds as any administration would have

been in this period. No government would have been able to have a fledgling incomes policy, even if it had wanted one, following the collapse of the Callaghan experiment. Any government would have been forced to cut back public spending in the present economic climate. Another government would have pursued a different tax policy, though it is unlikely that any administration would have refuted seriously with high, even if diminishing, inflation in an international recession.

It is just possible that a Labour government would have followed the alternative strategy of determined retrenchment in an economy protected by import controls, but not Mr Callaghan and his colleagues if they had been reelected in 1979.

The real distinction is that the present Government is not pragmatic in its rhetoric. Whereas Lord Thorneycroft was gloating on Wednesday in the aid to BL as evidence that the Conservatives occupied centre ground, Mrs Thatcher spoke of it on Sunday as a decision that was "very, very difficult indeed". She is not able to take pride in the pragmatism of her administration for the simple reason that she is not proud of it. It has amounted to a series of concessions wrought from her by the pressure of events and her colleagues. To glory in them would encourage those who would weaken resistance to events in the future.

Yet if the Conservatives feel that it is necessary to head off the social democrats by returning to the middle ground, they will have to adopt the rhetoric as well as the policies of pragmatism. Lord Thorneycroft was pointing the way. When they are forced into actions that offend their doctrine they will have to rejoice in the evidence that they are not bound by dogma. They must present cuts in public expenditure as a regrettable necessity not a healthy discipline. Unemployment must always be described as a calamity, never as the application of an economic theory.

There are signs that Mrs Thatcher is trying to observe these rules, for some of the time at least. But the general impression she creates is invigorating or provoking, according to one's judgment—never reassuring. Yet the middle ground belongs to those who can reassure. I do not share the view of those who believe that Mrs Thatcher will be ditched by her party before the next election. But it is undeniable that she is not the best person to represent a comforting Conservatism, if that is what they decide to present to the country.

In the Children's Books feature on Wednesday, the address for the Penguin Book Club enquiries was incorrectly given. It is: 536 King's Road, London W10.

SIBERIAN DIARY



Siberia—the very name inspires awe and dread. Both to the Russian and to the foreigner it conjures up a vast frozen wasteland, a place of exile and punishment, a remote region of endless winter. But to today's planners and economists it has become a land of boundless natural wealth, a vast unexploited reserve of gold, coal, oil, iron ore and almost every natural resource needed for the future development of the Soviet Union.

What lies beneath the permafrost could make the Soviet Union the richest country in the world. It is the challenge of how to exploit this potential that still inspires awe.

For years Siberia has been isolated, challenging man with its harshness and vastness, and there is still a harsh, tough frontier spirit among those who live in a region that covers more than six million square miles. The Siberians are proud of their endurance: "A hundred kilometres is no distance. Minus 40 degrees is no frost", they say.

It was, of course, the railways that opened up this mysterious land to the modern world, and led directly to the founding of today's unofficial capital of the whole region. In 1893 the Russian engineers building the Trans-Siberian railway came to the mighty River Ob, the fourth largest in the world. They built a bridge across the river and on its east bank a station and a town, which was named Novonikolayevsk in honour of the new Tsar Nicholas II. Eighty-eight years later the town has become a city of almost a million and a half, split over on to the other bank of the Ob, and has a post-revolutionary name—Novosibirsk.

Though farther from Moscow than London is, Novosibirsk is still considerably less than halfway along the Trans-Siberian railway from the Soviet capital to Vladivostok. The busy, modern city belies

the popular image of Siberia as a land of forest and taiga, mosquitoes and fir-trees, salt-mines and labour camps. The original wooden houses are almost all gone, and the remaining few threatened with the bulldozer. Novosibirsk today is a city of concrete and trolley-buses, broad tree-lined boulevards, parks, squares and modern blocks of flats. By Soviet standards it would do credit to any European city. To the west of the city, you have the curious feeling that after all that travelling you have really gone no distance at all from Moscow. Its inhabitants often compare it to Chicago: "but we grew faster", they boast.

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This year the inhabitants are all complaining that there has been no winter at all—tem-

peratures have rarely fallen below minus 25 degrees. They like it cold, and after three days there can see why. The sky is deep blue, the sun shines and the climate is bracing. It is far nicer than Moscow where the warm winter has meant continual slush and a rash of flu.

But the real key to Siberian development lies 20 miles to the south, amid picturesque birch groves. Akademgorodok, a purpose-built town to house hundreds of the country's most illustrious brains. Here scientists and economists, under the aegis of the important Siberian branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, are mastering the future of the Siberian virgin lands, test the colossal development projects and draw up plans for the building of a second Trans-Siberian railway now being built—or the reversal of the Siberian rivers to flow back down to the deserts of central Asia—plans that will probably remain for ever on the shelf.

Good salaries

The community was founded in 1957, in the heady days of the post-Stalin thaw, and by all accounts was an exciting place. Young scientists, lured from the west by good salaries and a relaxed life-style, could start everything afresh; order any western journals and books, join clubs that bubbled over with ideas and argument.

Some of the steam has gone out of the place as the brightest and best were enticed back to Moscow to enter top jobs, and those remaining simply stayed on and grew older. The noted liberalism was curbed, some of the clubs were closed down and the experimental feel to the place gave way to institutionalism. Even Akademgorodok still has a pleasant campus atmosphere. The standard blocks of flats look tidier, better kept. The local restaurant is rather like a faculty club, the schools

educate some of the brightest children in the region, most of the researchers have been abroad, and there is a curious sense that this small township, buried in the snow thousands of miles from the old centres of west European culture, is more closely in touch with what is going on in New York, Paris or London than most other places in Russia.

Certainly culture has a good showings back in Novosibirsk: an immense opera house built during the war in lavish classical style, can seat 2,000 people and boasts one of the better ballet companies in the Soviet Union. The art treasures were evacuated there from Moscow during the war. There is not much to see in the way of old churches, however—only a couple of wooden Russian Orthodox churches built before the revolution, a synagogue and Baptist prayer house. The guide seemed rather proud of the fact: "Novosibirsk is a city of youth, a city of atheists", she proclaimed.

Technically Siberia is a short of the regions bordering the Pacific coast, which are known as the Soviet Far East, though most foreigners think of it extending from the Urals all the way to the sea. Foreigners are increasingly common in Siberia as tourists there gets going, but so far only five cities are open for package tourists as much of Siberia is either inaccessible or closed to foreigners for security reasons.

But though Siberia is still very Russian (Novosibirsk's population is 95 per cent Russian, and virtually none of the Soviet Muslim population from Central Asia have emigrated north), it is so vast, so still and so strange—rather like a desert—that it is impressive even to one used to the Russian scale of distances.

And winter really is the best time, as the old Russian proverb says: "In Siberia the winter lasts 12 months, the rest is summer."

Michael Binyon

The Chemical Industry

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This Report marks the centenary of the Society of Chemical Industry.

A synopsis and details of advertising opportunities may be obtained from Karin Dahmen—01 837 1234, extension 7402





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مكتبة الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Exerting pressure on Russia

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, MP for Bexleyheath (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Richard Dobson (January 29) suggests that the recent visit to Moscow by officials of the Department of Trade (not a trade mission in the normal sense of the term) is a sign that Britain has abandoned all the economic measures taken against the Soviet Union in disapproval of the invasion of Afghanistan. This seems to be the case.

The specific measures were announced by the Government in January of last year. The credit agreement with the Soviet Government, which made available large amounts of credit at unreasonably favourable rates of interest, was not to be renewed when it expired in February, 1980. It has not been. The application of the rules of export control to the Soviet Union was to be tightened. It has been. And the European Community decided not to replace on the Soviet market agricultural produce withheld by the United States.

Although that decision has not been implemented as rigorously as some of us would like, it has meant that the Russians have not been able to buy all the grain they needed. Where is the change of course in this?

When these measures were announced, the Government said that normal trade with the Russians should be pursued on the basis of mutual advantage. Those who do business with state trading countries know the importance of the inter-governmental arrangements which facilitate trade and are essential if our exporters are not to lose out to their competitors in other countries.

As I understand it, the recent visit to Moscow was designed to keep these arrangements working. I do not see this as "creeping back again, looking for business": we have been looking for business all along, but within the constraints imposed by the measures on credits, technology and grain.

The extent of British moral support for the Afghan resistance, expressed through the Government's attitude to British participation in the Olympics and the decision to suspend the sale of arms to the Soviet Union, as well as by means of these economic measures, does not therefore seem to me to have lessened over the past year, much less been withdrawn.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL D. TOWNSEND,
29, St. James's Place,
London W1.

Soviet aims

From Mr Brian Thomas

Sir, Considering the controversial record of the Soviet Union in foreign policy, it is rather surprising that at his first press conference, Mr. President Reagan chose to attack it in the area where it is least vulnerable.

He stated that since the Russian Revolution there had been no Soviet leader who had not repeated the same mistakes. His goal must be the promotion of world revolution and the one world socialist or communist state.

Certainly Lenin said something very like this on August 2, 1915, two years before he took power, but since then Soviet leaders have been remarkably consistent in asserting the opposite. It was Stalin, for example, who on March 1, 1936, made the statement which must have been regarded as definitive: "The Soviet Union is in the process of being dismembered through the government's process of devolution, not only in the Basque country, but also in Catalonia, Andalusia and Galicia. To them his message was that he was backing the devolution process, but that Spain would remain intact. At a time when Spain is temporarily without a government, because of the resignation of Señor Suárez last week, the King's voice carries a particular authority.

The King's other audience was the Spanish right, in the Army and elsewhere, who are sensitive to the notion that Spain might be in the process of being dismembered through the government's process of devolution, not only in the Basque country, but also in Catalonia, Andalusia and Galicia. To them his message was that he was backing the devolution process, but that Spain would remain intact. At a time when Spain is temporarily without a government, because of the resignation of Señor Suárez last week, the King's voice carries a particular authority.

Until President Reagan spoke, the debate has tended to be about whether the Soviet Union is a threat. It is curious that it is now the words themselves which are in dispute.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN THOMAS,
29, St. James's Place,
London W1.

Canadian sovereignty

From Mr Lawrence Wilson

Sir, The matter is simpler than commentators have supposed. When Westminster parliamentarians consider Mr Trudeau's Bill they will not be a United Kingdom legislature dealing with Canada's internal affairs: they will be a Canadian legislature (one of 12 with which Canada is now blessed, each with its distinctive and limited powers).

If it were not so, Britain would indeed be dealing with Canada's affairs, and Canada would not be a sovereign state, as it is internationally recognised to be.

It has always been so. When the first British North America Act was passed at Westminster it was done there because Westminster was the supreme legislature for British North America, not because it was the legislature for the United Kingdom.

Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues would be guilty of interference if they tried to offer any opinion about the merits of Mr Trudeau's Bill, for it is not the concern of the United Kingdom or its Government.

But Sir Anthony Kershaw and his fellow parliamentarians (report, January 31) will be doing their duty as honourary Canadians whether they pass, reject or amend Mr Trudeau's Bill, provided they do so in what they conscientiously believe to be the best interests of the Canadian people who entrusted them with that duty.

Yours faithfully,
L. WILSON,
The Manor,
Grendon Underwood,
Aylesbury,
Berkshire,
February 1.

Inner London, like other inner-

Liberal questions on a centre alliance

From Mr William Wallace

Sir, As a Liberal favourably inclined to the principle of cooperation with social-democratic defectors from Labour I watched the pronouncements of your leaders over their first weeks with a sense of deepening despair. The CSD (Council for Social Democracy) appear inexcusably ignorant about the Liberal Party and about Liberal policy, naively optimistic about the problems of establishing a new political movement, and unjustifiably complacent about the prospects of concluding an electoral agreement satisfactory to themselves in the absence of prior consultations on policy priorities and some experience of successful collaboration at Westminster.

To judge from the current social-democratic euphoria one might believe that the realignment of the left was a new and noble idea, needing only a band of enthusiasts to march round the walls of Westminster in order for the two-party system to come tumbling down. To realise this, the 20 years old and Liberals have learned from the bitter experience of those years—and from the recurrent waverings of social democrats—that a few Labour defectors and a modicum of favourable publicity do not provide a substitute for established local activity and a consistent programme of policies.

The Liberal "revival" of 1961-63 was exhilarating, but it then tripped over a great many mistakes which contributed to its collapse in 1964. Since then we have painfully and slowly built up a mass party, with the resilience to withstand such adverse swings of opinion as the general election of 1979. We are not particularly disposed to hand what we have achieved over to a group which has initially displayed more concern with personalities and parliamentary manoeuvres than with policies, and displays a certain arrogance in its proprietary attitude both to "its" slice of the electorate and to "its" place in the political spectrum.

I would recommend a little more humility, and realism, to the lea-

ders of the CSD, if they seriously intend to try for the cooperation with the Liberals which most public commentators and opinion polls assume to be the only way to reach a breakthrough at the next general election—only three years away.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WALLACE,
49 St James's Drive,
Wandsworth Common, SW17.

From Mr Tom Cross

Sir, May I through your columns suggest an answer to the problems of the moderates in the Labour Party in its present mood, and the establishment of a soundly-based centre party, which I believe the country needs if we are to avoid extremism?

The Co-operative Party, which still has a separate identity, will not, I believe, wish to continue its long-standing alliance with a Labour Party set on a corporatist, undemocratic course. Those who recall the compassion and rugged independence of the middle-class pioneers of the Co-operative Movement, the quality and tone of its fine newspaper, *Reynolds News*, and the reputation for decent, straightforward dealing enjoyed by the Co-operative societies of today, will see in it an excellent vehicle for a social democratic party with clear economic and moral objectives which the electorate can recognize and, if it chooses, support.

The suggestion with no disrespect or lack of regard for the Liberal Party as the alternative. It is my view, however, that the difficult, diffuse concept of Liberalism is not understood by the electorate at large when they do give it their vote, do so largely from a motive of protest rather than conviction.

The principle of cooperation would, on the other hand, embody most of the aims of Liberals and be a reasonable platform for a social democratic party seeking to be an alternative government.

Yours truly,
TOM CROSS,
19 Higher Heyes Drive,
Kingsley, Warrington, Cheshire.

Hostages agreement

From Mr J. G. Merrills

Sir, In his attempt to justify a possible American renunciation of the agreement with Iran, Mr Harding (January 30) exhibits both a basic misunderstanding of the international law of treaties and an alarmingly superficial view of the interests of the international community.

As far as international law is concerned, it is clear from article 62(1)(b) of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties that a change of circumstances can only be invoked if "the effect of the change is radically to transform the extent of obligations still to be performed under the treaty." It is difficult to see how recent revelations concerning the ill-treatment of the hostages could be said to have this effect, nor how such behaviour could be said to constitute a material breach of the release agreement within article 60 of the same convention.

In connection with both articles it must also be pointed out that the right to withdraw from a treaty depends not on whether one party "feels" that the provision in question provides such a justification, as Mr Harding asserts, but on the very different criterion of whether on the facts such a justification actually exists.

Although there is therefore no substance in arguments based on article 60 and 62 of the convention, the United States would in my view certainly be entitled to maintain that the hostages agreement was void for duress within the meaning of article 52 of the convention.

It does not follow, however, that repudiation of the agreement would be a politically sensible action at the present time. Apart from the obvious point that the hostages are Iranian property, so that repudiating the agreement could in itself provide no justification for their continued retention, it was Iran's

obsession with punishment and revenge that produced the hostages crisis in the first place. It therefore seems odd that those who claim possible American renunciation of the agreement should be offering to fund a satisfactory foundation for American-Iranian relations in the future.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. MERRILLS,
Faculty of Law,
Rookwood Building,
Conduit Road, Sheffield.

Artists' adviser

From the Chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain

Sir, Mr Black and his distinguished co-signatories (January 31) omit to mention the most important fact about the Arts Council's funding of Artlaw Services.

The council welcomed this imaginative idea from the start, and indeed I myself chaired the public meeting at which Artlaw Services was launched. But it was always envisaged that the services would become self-financing within a year or two and they themselves initially asked the Arts Council for grant-aid for two years only, subsequently extended to March, 1981. This was a major factor in the council's decision to fund a service which was well outside the normal scope of its activities.

Artlaw succeeded perhaps even better than expected and, if it is still not self-financing, the reason must lie mainly in the level of charges made. Neither they nor we could have expected that the service would depend on council funding beyond the initial years. We are, however, very happy to support their appeal for assistance from other sources to the extent that this continues to be necessary.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ROBINSON,
105 Piccadilly, W1,
February 2.

Future of 'The Times'

From Mr Keith Richardson

Sir, Unless a rescue operation goes through, *Times Newspapers* will cease to exist at the end of next month. Large numbers of loyal and long-serving employees, including myself, will be out of work. We have little chance of finding comparable employment in the present recession. The problem of how we are going to pay our rent and food bills is causing me, my family, and many of my friends and colleagues the most acute and urgent worry.

In this critical situation we have one firm chance of safety, in the deal with Rupert Murdoch. We are grateful to those commentators who recognize to be the most enterprising and successful newspaper man in Fleet Street today. Some of my colleagues might perhaps prefer another proprietor, but this is the only solid commitment. Everything else is speculation.

But now I hear that my colleagues on *The Sunday Times* have voted in effect to block the Murdoch bid by pressing for a reference to the

monopolies commission. This foreign correspondent, at least, was given no prior notification of such a controversial move, and no opportunity to come to London, attend the chapel meetings, or make his own views heard. From the perspective of the Contingent Europe it looks like yet another example of the death wish that in recent years seems to have taken a grip of the entire British economy and which is so utterly inexplicable to the rest of the world.

Even at this late hour, may I ask my colleagues to reflect again, and spare a thought for those journalists and printers who want to keep working for *Times Newspapers* and who still believe that with vigorous and imaginative leadership it could be made to flourish again?

Yours, etc.,
KEITH RICHARDSON,
(Sunday Times Common Market Editor),
7 Avenue des Tournesols,
Rhode, Belgium,
February 5.

City health care

From Mr Robert Davies

Sir, The British Medical Association's proposals for new incentives to improve family doctor services in inner cities (report, January 28) are only part of the response needed to tackle the growing problem of poor inner-city primary health care.

Our district forms the heart of the West End where local people can live cheek by jowl with doctors' surgeries yet, from our own survey evidence, find it almost impossible to register on a National Health Service list. Your report quoted the latest findings prepared for the Royal College of General Practitioners by our local GP, Dr Brian Jaxman, who shows how a small number of single-handed and aging GPs are defending the front line whilst others are restricting their NHS lists to an absolute minimum.

This is contrary to the best interests of patients and has become intolerable in this district.

Inner London, like other inner-

city areas, now requires a radical new approach to the provision of primary health care of which new incentives form only one component. My Community Health Council is pressing for two key measures. First, NHS resources must once again be earmarked for the development of inner-city health centres and primary health-care teams in areas with high rents and building costs. GP mortgage schemes are not viable.

Secondly, the Medical Practices Committee must at long last change its regulations on the numbers of GPs allowed to operate in an area: a GP with a minimum NHS list should not be counted as "one doctor" but "half a doctor", the quota should be based on the population choosing to register in the area rather than the lower resident population.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT DAVIES, Chairman,
Soho & Marylebone Community Health Council,
13 Ingestre Place, W1,
January 29.

Safeguards on historic buildings

From Mr Douglas B. Hague

Sir, In reply to the letter by Mr John Harris (February 2), I have encountered an understandable reluctance on the part of some country house owners to have photographs of furnished interiors taken for security reasons. Such photographs can show the existence and exact positions of pictures and other articles of value. As the files of the Royal Commissions and National Monuments Record are open to the public, they remain an open invitation to potential thieves.

Secondly, as regards Mr J. K. Bates's fair comment (February 2) on the City of Oxford inventory of the Royal Commissions and National Monuments Record are open to the public, they remain an open invitation to potential thieves.

Thirdly, it is to be hoped that the important and sad letter by Arnold Taylor (January 31) will be widely read. During and long after Dr Taylor's stay in Wales many great buildings have benefited from his scholarship and enthusiasm; his love of them was passed down to the custodians of the most remote sites, who always received from him a kind word about the excellent condition of "their" monument.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS B. HAGUE,
Mansel,
Llanfawr,
Aberystwyth,
Dyfed,
February 3.

From the Warden of Wadham College, Oxford

Sir, My college is concerned that inaccurate accounts have appeared in the press about alterations in the old library of the college (London Daily, January 8; letters, January 21, February 2). We acknowledge with regret that the college did not originally seek the relevant permissions at the right time, but there has been no vandalism.

Plain bookcases from the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries were removed before we had listed building consent and some plain plaster also. The original Jacobean library was lost long ago. The college is producing detailed drawings of the library as it was until a few months ago, and our future plans are under discussion with the appropriate authorities.

Yours faithfully,
STUART HAMPSHIRE,
Wadham College,
Oxford,
January 31.

Voice from the past

From Dr J. H. Crook

Sir, Not only did RSM Britain have a superb ground voice but he also used it with devastating effect. While at Mons I sought to save myself some trouble by keeping an extra pair of boots, not however of the Army issue. They had soles of rubber and were very different from the standard issue.

Once the platoon was marching near the RSM. He stopped it for a quick and seemingly casual inspection. He let us go and on until the sergeant had marched up to the far end of the parade ground did that unforgettable voice come booming after us. "Sergeant—the third man in the back row has non-military boots on. Take his name!"

The splendour of the man is unforgettable and his kindness outside the parade ground situation much to be remembered.

Yours, etc.,
JOHN H. CROOK,
University of Bristol (Department of Psychology),
8-10 Berkeley Square, Bristol.

New coinage

From Mr Richard Trayer

Sir, While a facetious note has crept into one of the letters on this subject appearing in today's *Times* (January 30), one cannot help but agree with the admirable suggestions that some of our coins should have their distinctive and time-honoured names.

In a more serious vein, however, would it not now be opportune for a radical change in the value of our notes and coins to take place by the simple expedient of moving the decimal point one place to the left?

Both France and Germany—to mention only two—made this change in postwar years and with a measure of success. It cannot be denied, of course, that one or two minor disadvantages might result but the half-penny coin is still with us and, on the whole, the advantages which would be gained would be too numerous to mention in this letter; manageability, in all its senses, of the currency would accrue and the Mint might thus be spared the need to create a fl coin.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
RICHARD TRAYER,
196 Oxford Street, W1,
January 30.

From Mr A. H. R. Christian

Sir, Alas! the pound note-postage stamp suggested by Mr Kemo in his letter today (January 30) will never be needed.

By extrapolating the increases in postal charges along with deterioration in performance, it can be shown that around the time that first-class postage reaches 90p, the service will have become non-existent.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. R. CHRISTIAN,
The Mead,
Parsonage, Downs,
Dunmow, Essex,
January 30.

From Dr K. E. Machin

Sir, If Dr Mayo's (February 3) is right, and the 50p piece is a regular heptagon, we must presumably attribute the bulging of its sides to inflation.

Yours faithfully,
K. E. MACHIN,
Queens' College,
Cambridge,
February 3.

TWO NATIONS; INDEXED AND NOT

All members of pension schemes in the public services are entitled to pensions that are fully protected against inflation. It is not only civil servants who come into this category, but a good many others including teachers, the police, the armed forces, local government employees and MPs. Hardly anyone in the private sector enjoys similar benefits. Some occupational schemes have in practice largely compensated their members even for the extremely high levels of inflation in recent years, but even in these schemes the members do not have the same advantage of certainty. The new state earnings-related pension will cover people in the private sector, but the full benefits will not be enjoyed by anyone retiring before 1998—and in any case it will relate only to that portion of income which is equal to average national earnings or less, and will not cover the self-employed.

So this country is becoming in effect two nations in retirement: those with public sector pensions who do not need to worry about inflation and the rest of us for whom it must be a constant anxiety. It is the inequity between these two groups which presents the problem that has been examined by Sir Bernard Scott's report, published yesterday. They rightly do not see an abuse in an index-linked pension

itself. Indeed, as a general principle it is highly desirable that the value of a pension with which a person goes into retirement should be preserved in real terms—provided that this is economically possible. But it is totally wrong that the benefit of this principle should be enjoyed in the public but not the private sector. That is both unjust and economically unhealthy because it gives a considerable additional advantage to employment in that sector on which the creation of wealth depends least.

There are three possible solutions to this dilemma. Public service employees can continue to enjoy this benefit, but be made to pay an economic price for it. The Scott report has some ideas on that score, but the difficulty about this approach is that it is impossible to fix the right price without knowing what the rate of inflation is going to be in future years. The Government Actuary may be right that the long-term rate will be no more than seven per cent, but most people will consider him an incorrigible optimist.

Another possibility would be simply to get rid of index-linking in the public sector on the ground that it gives too much of a good thing to too few. That would certainly be preferable to leaving things as they are. But it would not be an ideal solution because it would mean changing

the terms of employment of a considerable number of people. The best outcome would be if members of occupational schemes in the private sector could be given the same advantage that is that no private company can afford to give such an undertaking to its employees in an age of high and extremely variable inflation, especially at a time when profit margins have been dangerously squeezed.

The Scott report suggests a possible means of meeting this difficulty by making indexed bonds available on the market. Such bonds could be purchased by pension funds and by the self-employed, who at the moment face special difficulties over pensions. This arrangement would be in effect to bring the principle of the "granny bond" to the rescue of private occupational pension schemes. Experience with the "granny bonds", which have been readily accepted by the public, suggests that if the capital sum is secured against inflation the interest payable need be only minimal. There are indeed practical objections to such an approach, but they can be exaggerated. The Government should respond to the report by considering actively and constructively whether to issue a new pension bond. Such bonds do after all help to reduce the fraud inherent in all inflationary finance.

A COURAGEOUS VISIT TO THE BASQUES

There was never any expectation that King Juan Carlos's visit to the Basque country, which ended yesterday, would be an easy one, or that he would get an enthusiastic reception from the public. By all accounts the King was even strongly advised by Señor Suárez, the outgoing Prime Minister, not to undertake it for fear either that he would come to some harm, or that he would be subjected to some gross indignity which would enrage the right. But he himself was determined to go ahead with the plan, and in the event he achieved the aims he had set himself. He showed his support for the concept of Basque autonomy within Spain, and by his own calmness and good humour in Guernica in the face of the demonstration by Herri Batasuna provided assurance for his supporters.

The demonstration was a reminder that Herri Batasuna, the most extreme of the Basque parties, which is linked to the more violent "military" wing of the ETA terrorist organization, is only a minority. Even Euzkadi ESKER, which is associated with the "political-military" wing of ETA, did not join in, though its representatives studiously ignored the King.

THE BUREAUCRATS OF BASINGSTOKE

It is the stuff that Ealing comedies used to be made from. Down in balmey Basingstoke the lone householder locks herself into her own home as an unlicensed squatter, with every man's hand against her (well, some of them). It must be hoped that the affair can be resolved without the intervention of comic policemen. Mrs Lawrence's former tenant, unemployed, is reported to be seeking an order to evict her, in spite of the fact that his own three months' lease has expired. He can easily be cast in the Peter Sellers role of diabolical liberty-taker, but it seems that it would be at least as true to represent him as a helpless tool of that other familiar villain of such pieces, narrow-minded local bureaucracy.

As far as the law is concerned, it is clear that Mrs Lawrence is in the wrong. She should have sought a possession order, a process which may take several weeks. If so, she says, the law is an ass. Nobody would disagree in general with that sensible Dickensian observation, but in this instance there are other asses in evidence. The tenant, Mr Goodall, claims that the local housing authority advised him

that he had to go through the legal ritual of eviction if he and his family were to be rehoused as homeless. He only wants to get back in so that he can be thrown out in due form.

It is common today for councils to give advice of this kind to candidates for homelessness, in an attempt to minimize the costly extra burden put on their waiting lists by the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act. But the restriction has no basis in law. Like the borough of Wandsworth in a court case this week, Basingstoke has no power to bind itself by rules fettering its statutory discretion to house those it considers to be in urgent need of accommodation. In cases like this, where it is obvious that the tenant would have no case against an application for possession, it is absurd to impose extra delay, cost and distress merely to postpone the inevitable.

It is true that the legal machinery for an owner-occupier to regain possession after a short-term let is less elaborate than that ordained for landlords of other kinds of property. In theory, it can be done in a few days. In practice, a defendant can often string the process out

for a couple of months. The whole process is apt to encourage blackmail or collusion. The procedure for evicting squatters, which Mr Goodall (householder in the eyes of the law) means to invoke, is much more rapid and certain.

The case is the kind of paradoxical affair from which wider lessons should be drawn only with caution. Tenants in general need strong legal safeguards against eviction from their homes when cheap accommodation is so hard to find. But a three months' tenancy is scarcely home, and the shortage is in part caused by occupiers' fears that they might have the same problems as Mrs Lawrence if they let their homes while they are away. Now that 55 per cent of homes are owner-occupied, the wasteful inflexibility that this introduces into the market is increasingly important. The problem of empty second homes in the country is made worse by similar fears. Where an owner wants his first or second home for his own use, and a limited tenancy has demonstrably expired, the process of repossession should be as quick and certain as the process for ejecting squatters.

The Government have felt it necessary to effectively raise the present limit of 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood to the equivalent of 92mg per 100ml of blood.

We are further concerned by the very real possibility that these new evidential breath instruments may be either innocently or knowingly cheated. For, to obtain a representative result, it is necessary for the deep lung air, and although the instruments have various methods of trying to achieve this, they are, by their very nature, far from foolproof. Thus by such techniques as incomplete exhalation, hyperventilation, vigorous exercise, etc. it should be possible to provide unrepresentative samples, all of which would give rise to lower analytical results, thereby effectively cheating the system.

None of these techniques has any significant short-term effect on the concentration of alcohol in the blood and would thus not affect the result of the samples presently taken.

In conclusion, we would pose the question as to why it is necessary to change the present system of taking blood samples which are then accurately analysed in a laboratory by fully qualified analytical chemists to one which uses an inferior analytical procedure, largely taken away from the suspect's right of an independent check on

the analytical result, and opens up the possibility of cheating.

The only claimed advantage of the new system would seem to be the ability to provide an instant result, but we are sure most people, especially in the case of borderline samples, would far rather wait for an accurate result than take the risk of an instant but unreliable one.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. PARSONS,
G. F. J. HART,
G. C. Laboratories Ltd,
Faldo Road,
Barnon-le-Clay,
Bedfordshire.

Haig's implications

From Mr Michael Ambrose

Sir, Am I alone among *Times* readers in thinking that what General Haig is saying is more important than how he is saying it? Surely we should be objecting to the improbability factors of his cold war politics, otherwise there may be none of us around to discuss the finer points of the English language.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL AMBROSE,
31 Imperial Road,
Windsor,
Berkshire,
February 3.

Breath test controls

From Mr A. H. Parsons and Mr G. F. J. Hart

Sir, As analytical chemists we wholeheartedly agree with the comments of Mr T. E. Rymer (January 27) regarding the proposed new breath-testing procedure under the Transport Bill, 1980.

We would like to add that there are many other points in the new proposals which should give considerable cause for concern. For example, even if the new evidential breath-test instrument is operated and calibrated correctly by a fully trained operator, which from the wording of the proposed legislation, would not appear to be a necessary prerequisite to obtaining a successful prosecution, the accuracy and precision of the new procedure is far from encouraging.

This is perhaps best illustrated by the figures given in the Government's own consultative document on the subject, which states that during the trials of instruments, evidential testing instruments, in which suspects were asked to give two consecutive breath samples, there was a difference between the two results of more than 20mg alcohol per 100ml of blood (when the breath results were converted to the equivalent blood figure) in one in every 14 cases! It is probably no coincidence therefore that



Saudis will maintain level of oil production

Saudi Arabia is to maintain its present level of oil production at 10.3 million barrels a day, at least until the end of February, Saudi Arabia's oil minister, said. It was also the government's intention to try to keep prices at their present level of \$32 a barrel for benchmark crude until May.

The world market seemed to be soft, partly because the fighting between Iran and Iraq was limited enough to allow both sides to keep producing small amounts.

Nigeria eases curbs on foreign participation

Nigeria has eased restrictions on foreign participation in several industries to encourage more foreign investment. Foreigners will be allowed to have a 50 per cent participation in the production of metal containers, fertilizers and cement, in sugar plantations and processing, and agricultural plantations for cash crops.

Turkey devaluation

Turkey has devalued the lira by 4.2 per cent against the dollar and 2.5 per cent against sterling. The new exchange rates were 95.95 to the dollar compared with 91.90 and 225.10 against sterling, compared with 219.57. It also devalued against the Deutsche mark, Belgian franc, Danish krona and the French franc.

Eurocredit for Spain

Spain's Sociedad Espanola de Automobiles de Turismo, the country's largest car manufacturer, has signed a credit agreement for a \$175m (£75m) Euroloan with 33 banks. The credit will be for eight years and will bear an interest rate of 1 point above the United States prime rate.

Canal for Panama

Mr Shigeo Nagano, President of the Japan and Tokyo Chambers of Commerce, says he hopes President Reagan will take the first steps soon toward a joint United States-Japan project to build a sea-level canal in Panama.

Higher car output

Mitsubishi has decided to increase production of small cars and trucks to 9,000 vehicles a month, starting in March, because Chrysler has asked for more models to meet American dealer demand.

Chinese engineers

One hundred and fifty Chinese engineers have been ordered home to build and operate an 85,000-ton (£179m) steel rolling mill in Baoshan near Shanghai.

More German steel

West German January raw steel production rose 15.4 per cent from December to 3.18 million tonnes but declined 12.7 per cent from January, 1979.

Hydro plant loan

Italy's state electric utility, Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica, has received an additional \$40m (£17m) credit from the European Investment Bank to build a hydro-electric plant at Edolo, northern Italy.

JAL Swiss bond

Japan Airlines plans private placement of a \$50m Swiss franc (£11.23m) government-guaranteed bond with a Swiss banking syndicate led by Union Bank of Switzerland.

Chrysler lay-offs

Chrysler Canada will lay off about 3,500 car assembly plant workers for two weeks beginning next week and will lay off 230 others indefinitely.

Rouble revalued

The Soviet state bank's rouble exchange rate against the dollar will be changed from 20 to 20.35 roubles to \$100 from 69 roubles.

Daimler-Benz sales

Daimler-Benz, the German car company, saw domestic sales rise 2.3 per cent to 241,000 units in 1980 while foreign sales climbed 2.7 per cent to 188,000.

£248m Indian loans

The Indian Government floated two loans totalling \$4,800m (£251m), completing net market borrowing of \$25,000m for the financial year to the end of March.

Shell Canada budget

Shell Canada expects its capital expenditure programme this year to total Can\$770m (£275m), up from Can\$518m last year.

Spanish pay strikes

Strikes over wage demands hit Spain's steel and transport industries, halting train and airline service.

Uruguay trade gap

Uruguay had a trade deficit of \$234,549m in the first 11 months of last year.

Computer group aims for 1,000 private systems within two years

ICL launches its own viewdata system

ICL, which this week reported a £20m loss in the first quarter, has launched a £15m viewdata system called Bulletin which it hopes will bring the company to the fore in information technology.

The viewdata market in the United Kingdom has been tailored largely by British Telecom whose Prestel system was launched in September 1979.

The response to the service has been disappointing, with only 7,500 specially adapted sets sold out of annual sales of 1.5 million colour sets.

But many users of Prestel's business and financial data are companies.

ICL and a number of other international companies are therefore interested in developing systems that can be used in conjunction with an internal computer system.

These systems will be the forerunners of a more advanced service that will allow an executive isolated in his country retreat to gain access to his own company files via the telephone and his television.

Virtually no training is required for the most inexperienced user to call up easily readable files and tables.

The Prestel system allows the subscriber to dial into one of the 19 computers in the country which can provide a total of 74,000 "pages" of information supplied by about 140 sources. These "pages" are then sent to other suppliers, bringing the total to nearer 400.

The ICL system will provide the same type of facility but it will be strictly for company use and the company is confident it can tap a sizable market with about 1,000 Bulletin systems in operation around the world by the end of 1983.

Within the next few years electronic equipment manufacturers, computer companies and information providers will all be expected to try to achieve a share of the information technology industry.

The Government's recent appointment of Mr Kenneth Baker as Minister of Information Technology reflects the official Whitehall view of the importance of its development.

Even industries such as newspapers are using their resources to set up databanks whose information is available through the Prestel system. The Financial Times, the Birmingham Post and Mail and Eastern Counties Newspapers are examples.

But private viewdata systems such as that now being launched by ICL will bring office computer facilities directly into the home for the cost of a telephone call.

At present 60 per cent of telephone subscribers are able to gain access to the Prestel information stored in the 19 local computers in the United Kingdom.

Later this year Prestel will be launching its "gateway" which will allow the user to dial into a private system through the public network.

This development will revolutionize viewdata and ensure an industry devoted to the collating, retrieval and distribution of information.

Bill Johnstone

UK curbs on counterfeit merchandise

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Industrial counterfeiting is causing British companies significant losses in export markets, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade, said yesterday.

The Department of Trade is so concerned about the problem—described by Mr Parkinson as "the theft of technology that negates commercial incentive to innovate"—that a number of initiatives are being made to counter it. Counterfeiting could be costing British industry at least £200m a year, it has been estimated.

The greatest concern is over counterfeit motor parts and more recently drugs, because of the dangers in using inferior products. Brake linings have been among a number of car parts in which the quality has often been inferior to the genuine product and could cause failures leading to accidents.

Although counterfeit goods, largely sourced from south east Asia but also coming in from other European countries, have mainly been finding their way into British export markets, there are fears that some could also be coming into the United Kingdom itself.

Mr Parkinson, who was speaking at a management symposium in Switzerland, said the counterfeit goods were being promoted unscrupulously, with even the packaging an exact copy of the real thing. Counterfeiting harmed trading relationships and was a considerable risk on the consumer that had to stop, he added.

EEC to scrutinize Tokyo exports

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Feb 5

The European Commission is planning to scrutinize the deliveries of Japanese cars, colour televisions and numerically controlled machine tools into the Community to determine the pattern of imports month by month.

This follows last month's round of high level discussions on trade between Commission officials and the Japanese in Tokyo, and reflects dissatisfaction in Brussels at the limited progress achieved.

A report to be submitted to the Commission to the Council of Ministers has established that a wide gap exists between what the Japanese like to happen to reduce Japan's trade surplus with the Community

and what the Japanese are willing to offer to bring about an improvement.

The Commission says that the Japanese are not prepared to curtail their exports to the EEC to the extent desired by their governments, while the recent talks produced nothing to suggest that member states will gain easier access to the Japanese market.

The Commission believes that the Community should continue to press its views on the Japanese Government and pursue discussions on problems in specific sectors.

It plans to report to the Council of Ministers on its monitoring of imports of Japanese cars, televisions and machine tools as soon as the figures for the first half are available.

French blockade of car imports angers Japan

Tokyo, Feb 5. — Japan is considering a protest to France for holding up thousands of Japanese cars in ports and blocking sales, apparently to express its displeasure over surging vehicle imports.

Mr Toshihiko Yano, vice minister of International Trade and Industry, said the French action constituted a non-tariff barrier and violated the principles of free trade under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Thousands of cars shipped by Japan have been held up in the Havre and Marseilles for failing to obtain sales approval from the French Government.

Japanese reports said the French Government was believed to be intentionally withholding sales approval.

The French Government was reported to have told domestic importers to hold down the market share of Japanese cars below 3 per cent and not to prepare advertisements for Japanese cars.

Several western governments seem to be moving towards trade curbs against Japanese cars.

This is despite their free trade philosophy and the possibility that any major curbs on car imports could result in a trade war which could worsen the world recession.

Tate workers call off strike threat

By R. W. Shakespeare

Workers at the Tate & Lyle sugar refinery in Liverpool, which is under threat of closure with the loss of 1,600 jobs, have agreed to suspend their planned campaign of industrial action while efforts continue to try to save their jobs.

However, they are pressing ahead with proposals to build up "a fighting fund", to which they will each be contributing £1 a week, to oppose the closure, due on April 22.

After a series of meetings Tate & Lyle has agreed to continue to take in supplies of raw sugar to the plant until April 3.

Mr John McLean, secretary of the joint union works action committee, says it was this move that prompted workers to call off their plans for immediate industrial action. Had the company not acted to keep supplies flowing, the refinery would have closed within a fortnight as raw sugar stocks ran out.

Mr Tony Humphreys, regional officer for the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said: "At least we now have a little more time. I would have been happier if the company had withdrawn redundancy notices. That would have shown a real desire to keep the refinery industrial action."

The closure was announced a fortnight ago. Opposition is centring on political moves aimed at pressing for changes in EEC policy which gives preferential treatment to home-grown sugar.

More than 150 MPs have signed a Commons motion attacking the Government for failing to support the British cane sugar refining industry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Increases in overseas mail rates

From the Director, International Post Affairs, The Post Office

Sir, I noted with interest several letters from your readers who seem to be unaware of the extent that rates charged for overseas mail are affected by costs outside the control of the British Post Office. We regret as much as our customers that this has led to overseas increases well above the inland rates.

In part, the recent increases in overseas tariffs reflect an international agreement governing payments made to countries receiving more mail than they despatch and as a result Britain has to pay an additional £16m in a full year to overseas postal administrations. Another element is the very large increase in overseas transportation costs as a result of higher fuel charges. There have also been increases in the payments required by overseas countries for handling mail in transit through their territories.

The biggest change to the pricing of surface parcels for overseas is the introduction,

following strong customer demand, of weight-steps at every kilogram. Prices at the old weight-steps of 1, 3, 5 and 10kg have risen substantially; but at the new steps increases are nearly always much more modest. Thus a 3kg parcel to West Germany previously cost £4 and now costs £5.40 (35 per cent increase)—not £6.25 as stated by your correspondent; but a 6kg parcel has gone up by just 14½ per cent (£6.55 to £7.50).

Another of your correspondents claims that from January 1 EEC postal rates to Britain were reduced by 23 per cent. This is not the case. The original six EEC members have been applying their domestic rate as the first weight-step to each other for some time, but the only EEC countries which apply lower rates to the United Kingdom are Denmark, The Netherlands, France and West Germany. Postal arrangements with the Irish Republic have always been on the basis of inland prices, but to the rest of the EEC Britain does not charge lower rates because it would mean forfeiting some

£5m revenue a year which would have to be recouped from other services.

It is also relevant that Britain is one of the few countries in the world which operates its postal services on a self-financing basis. Most countries receive some form of direct government subsidy, or cross-subsidisation from their telecommunications services. Neither case applies with the British postal service, which is expected to operate at a profit and has done so for some years.

Finally, it was pointed out that we no longer sell the smaller size of airmail letter. This is because it is not suitable for handling at our 41 mechanized offices and busier users tell us they prefer the larger A4 size. This size is being sold at the same price as the smaller version, allowing for the extra costs mentioned above.

Yours faithfully,
L. H. KINGSBURY,
Director, International Postal Affairs,
Post Office Headquarter,
St Martins le Grand,
London EC1A 1HQ.

Design in the service of industry

From Professor Frank Height
Sir, Kenneth Owen's excellent summary of recent events in design education (January 30), especially the new links between the Royal College of Art with Imperial College and with Cranfield Institute of Technology and the support of the 1981 commissioners, shows how the country's existing educational resources can be employed more effectively in design.

The present moves are concerned mainly with the integration of engineering and industrial design at advanced level. A third element is now needed in the provision of economic, management and marketing studies. These should establish those products and industries

which should take priority in relation to Britain's skill, capacity and potential; economic and marketing research in establishing adequate design briefs and the development of management and marketing functions in support of design.

The advanced Institute of Design for which I have been campaigning would provide integrated studies of all the components of design and stand at the apex of education for industry.

Prince Albert saw this clearly 130 years ago when the South Kensington site was established for the purposes of "art and science working together for the benefit of productive industry", and the need is greater today.

Such an institute could be set up as a new and complete entity; resources do not exist. It would have to be a federation of institutions, people able to contribute to the development of design at level commensurate with national needs but with a headquarters in South Kensington where the echoes of the high endeavours of Prince Albert, Henry Cole and Lyon Playfair still resound.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK HEIGHT,
Professor,
School of Industrial Design,
Royal College of Art,
Kensington Gore,
London SW7 2EU,
February 2.

Comparing windmill costs

From the Chief Scientist,
Department of Energy

Sir, Mr Stobart's comparison of the cost per unit of his small aero-generator with that of the 3 megawatt machine planned for Orkney (Letters, February 4) does not compare like with like. The Orkney machine is a prototype, and one would expect the cost of subsequent production models to be considerably less.

It would be illuminating to compare the costs of the Orkney machine and that of pro-

ducing an equivalent amount of electricity from a Trumble windmill either scaled up or linked and controlled in arrays and connected to the grid. I would also point out that the 3 megawatt output for this machine is not a maximum but will be attained over a range of wind speeds between 17 and 27 metres per second, commonly prevailing on Orkney.

Yours sincerely,
A. A. L. CHALLIS,
Chief Scientist,
Department of Energy,
Thames House South,
Millbank,
London SW1.

Claim challenged

From Dr A. R. Robbins

Sir, Mr E. M. Pearson, in his letter (Business News, February 2) claims, in a throwaway line, that insurance is the world's second oldest profession. I would strongly challenge that claim and ask him for evidence.

I claim this honour for law-surveying. My evidence may be seen in the Old Testament, the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 27, which reads: "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's land mark (that is, boundary marker). A. R. ROBBINS,
23 Blandford Avenue,
Oxford OX2 8EA.

Rise of 5pc for knitting workers

By John Huxley

More than 60,000 knitting workers have settled for a 5 per cent wage increase this year. Industry leaders say the figure reflects "the most acute trading difficulties since the 1930s".

In the past 15 months the industry, located mainly in the East Midlands, has shed about 16,000 jobs, or about 15 per cent of its total workforce. More than 50 factories closed and short-time working is still widespread.

An agreement reached within the National Joint Industrial Council for the Hosiery Trade also allows for an extra day's paid holiday, an improvement in fallback rates for the guaranteed working week, and increases in the unsocial hours and overtime premia.

Mr Harold Gibson, general president of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers, said yesterday: "The agreement was the best that could be reached in the circumstances."

Mr John Harrison, director of the Knitting Industries Federation, said it was hoped the agreed package would help to alleviate widespread short-time working and preserve jobs in the industry to take advantage of the upturn in trade when it occurred.

He added that employers faced reduced demand and customer resistance to any attempt to pass on additional costs of production.

Industry leaders blame their present difficulties on "continuing over-exposure to low-cost imports" and the relative strength of the pound, which has limited opportunities for manufacturers to seek compensation elsewhere.

The federation has lent its voice to the campaign being waged by the clothing and textiles industry to have a much-strengthened successor to the present Multi-Fibre Arrangement, the machinery through which international trade in textiles and clothing is regulated. It expires at the end of this year.

Like other sectors of the industry, the knitters have found themselves being challenged by rising import penetration.

Although the main threat has come from the European Community's Mediterranean associates, and the Lomé countries, and other developing country producers, the knitting industry has also faced strong competition from United States producers.

Last autumn, Mr Harrison said the output of American knitted underwear, other clothing and fabrics, were increasing at an alarming rate. They were entering Britain at prices below those of goods from the Third World, the traditional low-cost source.

Appointments

SIANEL 4 CYMRU (WELSH FOURTH CHANNEL AUTHORITY) CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Authority invites applications (or nominations) for this post.

Applicants should have experience in broadcasting and management, be Welsh-speaking, and have the personal qualities required to set up and run the organization now needed to obtain and assemble television programmes (mainly in Welsh) for broadcasting on the Fourth Channel in Wales.

Salary and conditions of service will be for negotiation and will be commensurate with the importance of this exciting new post.

Applications (or nominations) should be sent marked "Collaborations (or nominations) to SIR GORONWY DANIEL, SIANEL 4 CYMRU, 2ND FLOOR, ELGIN HOUSE, 106 ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF, CF1 1DX by 26th February 1981.

Assistant Manager (m/f)
Required to develop retail and wholesale sales within Central London for prestigious wine company. Good education and experience essential. Salary negotiable. Reply: 584 8214

RETAIL JEWELLERS
Body Jewellery of Bond Street require bright sales person with proven sales ability to assist director. Salary negotiable. Please telephone 629 6796

NOT SO MUCH A JOB MORE A WAY OF LIFE

We are looking for energetic, enthusiastic group leaders over 18 to be trained in the demanding but rewarding world of our Children's Adventure Holiday.

If you are free between July and September and have experience in either canoeing, swimming, sailing, tennis, air rifle shooting, badminton or gymnastics, write now to: JABS SMITH, Personnel Officer, PSL Youngs Adventure Ltd., 819 Station Street, Redwood, Bedfordshire MK43 7AH. Tel: (0455) 5035 or 5046 (eves.).

SUMMER SCHOOL STAFF

Do something interesting with your summer this year. Children's holiday activity centre with a difference. We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic, and experienced staff to run a summer school for 10-14 year olds. The school will be held at a beautiful location in the heart of the Cotswolds. Staff will be responsible for a wide range of activities including sports, arts and crafts, and outdoor games. Salary and conditions of service will be for negotiation. Reply: 584 8214

RESERVATIONS ASSISTANT

For a leading travel organization. Tel: 01-629 8207

SKILLED MECHANIC 25-35 with extensive experience in all types of cars. 27,000 minimum plus company car. Salary and conditions negotiable. Reply: 584 8214

ARMY OFFICER 25-35 sought by leading educational charity to train in one of their many offices. A secure and interesting career is offered. The charity combines application with personality. Successful applicants will be employed on a full-time basis. Salary and conditions negotiable. Reply: 584 8214

Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments

CHARITY BEGINS IN KENSINGTON

Use your administrative skills to help a charity in Kensington. The charity is looking for a secretary to help with the day-to-day running of the charity. Salary and conditions negotiable. Reply: 584 8214

Graduate Girls Secretarial

Part-time secretarial work available for graduate girls in Kensington. Salary and conditions negotiable. Reply: 584 8214

Stella Fisher

BLOOMSBURY £5,500 pa. While your two bosses are travelling in Europe and to the first take of the right time you need while they're in the office. The salary is £5,500 pa. for a minimum 240 day year. Stella Fisher Bureau 710 Strand, W.C.2. 01-436 6644 Recruitment Consultants

FLUENT FRENCH KNIGHTSBRIDGE

CIRCA £6,500. A superb opportunity has arisen for a P.A. to be responsible for the day-to-day running of a small international ship-broking company. You will need fluent French and fast typing. Short-term and book-keeping experience would be an advantage. Plus the ability to work on your own. Age 25-30. Elegant office close to St James Street Tube. RING 437 1126 CRONE CORRIALL Recruitment Consultants

PROBLEM SOLVER? £5,500

Enjoy a challenge? Then put your ability to "solve" the day-to-day problems of a small international ship-broking company. You will need fluent French and fast typing. Short-term and book-keeping experience would be an advantage. Plus the ability to work on your own. Age 25-30. Elegant office close to St James Street Tube. RING 437 1126 CRONE CORRIALL Recruitment Consultants

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Developing in Publishing, Advertising and the Media. Expertise in Administration, Accounts and Office Management. Current affairs for well skilled secretaries. £4,500-£5,500 p.a. RING 437 1126 CRONE CORRIALL Recruitment Consultants

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU

£5,500 p.a. for secretaries. £4,500-£5,500 p.a. for secretaries. RING 437 1126 CRONE CORRIALL Recruitment Consultants

THE TIMES SPECIAL REPORTS

per cent discount on all books. Tel: 01-629 8207

SOCIAL SECRETARY, W8

Do you enjoy problem solving? Do you enjoy working with people? Do you enjoy working in a busy team? If you are a social secretary, you will be responsible for the day-to-day running of a social club. Salary and conditions negotiable. Reply: 584 8214

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Required by a leading charity in Kensington. The charity is looking for an assistant secretary to help with the day-to-day running of the charity. Salary and conditions negotiable. Reply: 584 8214

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS

Part-time secretarial work available for secretaries in Kensington. Salary and conditions negotiable. Reply: 584 8214

LA CREME DE LA CREME

Secretary/PA to MANAGING DIRECTOR. Experienced Secretary required for M.D. of small, international Oil Company. Top skills and ability essential. Position vacant in new offices (Victoria) mid London. Persons currently employed in the oil industry probably lack the necessary experience. Tel: 01-629 8645 JULIE DOUGAN

KATZ VAUGHAN MEYER AND FELTHAM

are seeking a secretary for their West End architectural practice. Previous experience of working for architects could be an advantage. Please phone 01-734 5401 for an appointment

TEMPERING TIMES

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Lonrho sets the scene for the next act

Although significantly less than some of the wider market forecasts, Lonrho's full-year profits up 52 per cent at £119m hardly rank as a disappointment. Meanwhile the ace up Mr Rowland's sleeve this time turns out to be the final dividend which takes the total for the year up by almost two-fifths to 14.3p a share gross.

This reward, although not quite twice covered on stated earnings, was enough to keep profit-takers at bay and the shares closed 1p higher at 105p where a yield of 13.6 per cent and fully-taxed p/e of around 3.5 times, reflect at least a partial narrowing of Lonrho's credibility gap with the investing institutions.

Total dividends for the year have thus cost Lonrho over £24m or about £10m less than it acquired through last November's rights issue. And the implication presumably is intended to be that those who feel the group will be pushed to find £158m to purchase House of Fraser are a long way wide of the mark. In fact the group claims cash holdings of £108m at the year end.

As expected almost all the trading improvement has come from the mining interests which boosted by higher production and a higher average gold price lifted their pre-finance contribution from £26m to £63m. These interests and the sugar operation clearly more than compensated for some fairly grim returns at home, although Lonrho maintains that Dutton Foreshaw had a good year and engineering managed a tiny contribution before financing costs despite the Haddfields steel company suffering "substantially" from conditions at home.

The question now is, leaving aside the House of Fraser move, whether Lonrho's existing operations can keep up the pace. The likelihood must be that mining returns will slow but that the agricultural division, only now seeing the benefits from a booming sugar price could almost double last year's £13m operating profit to make up much of the loss. But with precious little sign of recovery at home the group could once again find itself running on the spot.

Meanwhile with a fairly robust balance sheet expected before shareholders meet next month to vote on the House of Fraser bid—possibly showing net gearing below 60 per cent—the scene is neatly set for what could yet prove Mr Rowland's biggest coup.

The feeling is growing that Lonrho may have to pay more than 150p to capture Fraser but possibly not more than 175p given the agitation of some of the bigger performance funds with regard to their Fraser holdings.

Interest rates Still guessing on MLR

Financial markets did not get the cut in MLR they had been hoping for yesterday. But the damage was not all that great, with gilts down by no more than a quarter and the FT 30 share index giving back no more than 6.9 points to 472 of its recent rally. In short, markets continue to take the view that what falls to come one week will almost certainly turn up before too long. Whether that is a view that will need modification in the light of next Tuesday's banking figures remains to be seen.

More important internationally than the no-change MLR yesterday was the abatement of any upward movement in West German interest rates. Although foreign exchange markets had not been betting that hard on any change, there is clearly increasing speculation as to how successful Bundesbank support operations will be in deterring the movement of funds out of the currency. Yesterday the DM lost a further 2.58 pence to close at DM 2.1480 to the dollar.

Meanwhile the Scott Committee, reporting yesterday on the value of inflation protected pensions in the determination of public sector pay, added its name to the list of those favouring the introduction of index-linked bonds.

As the report points out, index-linked

bonds would not in themselves mean that private sector employers could automatically guarantee inflation-proofed pensions. The thrust of the Scott argument is that they would, however, at least give employers a better idea of the cost of offering various degrees of inflation-proofing.

Certainly, there is little doubt that pension funds would snap up a limited offering of index-linked bonds from the Government, and probably from solid blue chip companies too. But there is still no sign of any real enthusiasm for indexation on the part of the monetary authorities, and the idea that the authorities could be tied to a permanent obligation to issue index-linked bonds rather than take a much shorter-term view on interest rates in their funding decisions must surely be misconceived.

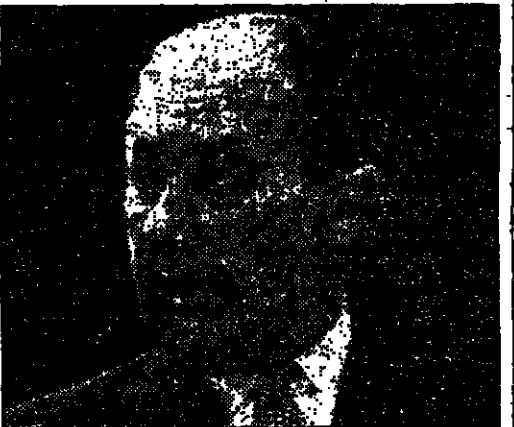
UDT Under pressure

The market is clearly waiting for a new offer by Lloyds & Scottish for United Dominions Trust. In the meanwhile the formal offer document from the Trustee Savings Banks and the interim results from UDT caused no surprise. The agreed TSB offer of 57p cash for each UDT share is formalized and UDT's own results are every bit as bad as expected.

For the half-year to December UDT made pretax profits of £3m—or £3.8m after adjusting for loan stock conversion for full comparison with the previous year—as against £7.9m. But after tax and an extraordinary debit of £1.4m, it is reporting a loss of £1.2m as against a net profit of £5.3m.

The instalment credit side has had plenty to contend with. Not only have interest rates stayed high but demand for new loans has been sluggish and bad debts are piling up. In UDT's own case the translation of overseas results into sterling has contributed £1m to the extraordinary debits while, amazingly, costs related to the TSB proposals have cost £800,000.

If the hire purchase side was bad, the industrial interests were even worse. Last year these contributed £4.9m to pretax profits, over half the total. This year Swan Hire, the car rental group, ordered too many



Mr Leonard Mather, chairman of UDT.

cars for market needs and then found their residual value at the time of resale sharply down, while the garages division, which includes several franchises, suffered from the recession in the industry.

In contrast, International Commodities Clearing House has been benefiting from the increase in its business. ICCH could yet prove one of the brighter stars in UDT's portfolio. It has assets of £16m but with profits last year of over £8m, and an apparent assured place in the futures market, its eventual value could be far higher.

With remaining uncertainties on the course of interest rates and demand for loans, it would be hazardous to anticipate the outcome for the year. Profits in the second half should, assuming lower rates and some industrial recovery, be substantially higher than in the first. But by then UDT will in all likelihood be part of another group and the shares at 59p reflect this more than their trading merits.

London is to have a new commodity market. The International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) which will begin trading on April 6, has already excited interest both among traders, who see an important addition to London's futures markets, and in the oil industry and among oil consumers, who are faced with increasing oil price instability.

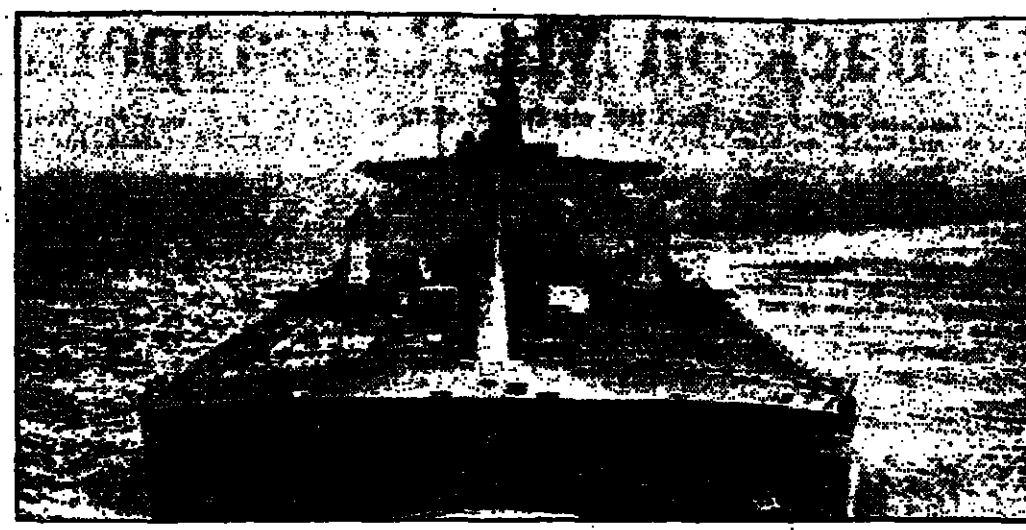
The opening of the exchange has to be seen against the background of a switch in emphasis in commodity markets generally and in the London markets particularly. Inflation, growing price volatility and the lacklustre performance of other forms of investment have attracted a mounting volume of funds to commodity markets in recent years. These funds—mostly from institutional investors, manufacturers and speculators—have flowed especially strongly into futures markets, where expansion has been much faster than in physical and spot markets.

Those behind the IPE scheme believe that it will play a leading role in restoring London's status as a commodity trading centre, a genuinely international market for one of the world's most important industrial commodities. Beyond that, it should attract large quantities of investment or speculative funds from abroad, enhancing the City's position as an earner of invisible exports.

The optimism is partly based on the New York experience, although a vital difference is that the New York Mercantile Exchange's Heating Oil Futures Market is an almost wholly domestic market. Nevertheless, since its inception in November, 1978, the market has grown rapidly. An average of more than 3,000 contracts are traded every day, amounting to some 750,000 tonnes of oil.

In 1980 it was New York's fastest growing futures market. London also plans to start with gasoil (heating oil), which is 30 per cent of the refined barrel and apart from heating oil is used for diesel fuel and petrochemicals.

The main reason for choosing



A 269,000 ton tanker under way: the new market will allow oil users to hedge their costs.

gasoil is that it is easily definable—an important qualification for commodity contracts—and widely traded. Contracts for naphtha and benzene could also be introduced and the oilists look forward to a futures contract in crude oil.

Like all futures markets, International Petroleum Exchange is designed to enable producers and consumers to hedge their costs. It is intended at present that the contract will be for 100 metric tonnes (in New York it is about 130 tonnes, but is quoted in gallons) of EFO grade, a standard European specification.

The price will be in dollars per tonne and the contract would be worth \$30,000 to \$40,000, with a minimum fluctuation of 25 cents. Delivery is to tanks in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp, with nine delivery months quoted on the exchange at one time.

Suggestions that a futures market should be formed to allow users and traders of petroleum products to protect their sales and purchases against possible sudden and violent price fluctuations have been around for at least seven years, but it is Iran that it has

been possible to identify a sufficient number of participants to make it work.

The revolution in Iran did two things. It accelerated the shift away from the multinational control of international oil and, at the same time, raised prices by 160 per cent. The effect was to increase markedly the role of the middleman in crude oil trading and to lessen the users' security of supply. Refiners were faced both with greatly increased raw material costs and much greater uncertainty over the sources of their raw material.

A trend which had been under way since the early seventies was greatly speeded up. In 1970 60 per cent of non-communist world's oil supplies outside North America were handled by the seven leading oil companies—Shell, BP, Exxon, Chevron, Mobil, Texaco and Gulf. After the revolution in Iran the multinationals' share of internationally traded oil had shrunk to 40 per cent.

More important was the fact that they no longer had sufficient crude to ensure that their own refinery requirements were met. Trading of both crude oil and products in-

creased sharply. New trading organizations sprang up overnight and traders and brokers already in existence greatly increased their business.

Also after the Iranian revolution, Opec members raised prices individually, often with wide disparities of price from producer country to producer country.

Contract terms were cut back from periods of five years or more to a matter of months and premiums were added to official selling prices for some or all deliveries, depending on the strength of demand. From dealing with only 2 to 5 per cent of crude oil traded internationally, spot markets took 15 per cent and more of the trade. Independent refiners could sell to hungry markets at vastly inflated prices as both companies and countries became frightened of running short of supplies.

The ability to make trading profits (and losses) by balancing the supplies of multinationals and governments, often suddenly deprived of supplies which they had thought assured, grew enormously. The conditions for a hedging mechanism were made.

Today prices demanded by

Opec governments remain disparate, over capacity in refining is marked, and competition for product markets is strong. The uncertainties are as great as ever. The industrialized West looks as though it will get through the winter without undue pressure on supplies despite the Iran/Iraq war, but the balance between adequacy and shortage is a fragile one. A hedging medium for both traders and refiners should be useful.

Producers have increasingly tended to push for the highest prices obtainable on the market, cutting back their production to defend an official base price. The fluctuations can be sharp, with premiums equal to 10 per cent of supplies being switched on and off and prices on the spot market fluctuating even more markedly over short periods.

If the differing crude prices between suppliers and the differing capacity use and market requirements of refiners are added in, a hedging market in gasoil, offering as it does a greater openness of dealing and security of contract, should be well used.

There is no doubt that the International Petroleum Exchange is well supported by the oil industry, oil merchants, and commodity traders. Many of London's leading commodity firms are among the 28 floor trading members. British Petroleum has a representative on the Committee of Management.

But it is also clear that the market expects and hopes for speculative interest from private investors, for whom there is in present no direct way of trading in oil. In the United States the speculators have tended to set the tone of futures markets, although they have also been criticized for upsetting physical prices.

As an international market, the IPE could have a marked impact on the oil business and on the price of the world's most important commodity.

Nicholas Hirst and Michael Prest

Technology

Longer-life washing machines and the 100-miles-a-gallon family car are two benefits which could easily result from the application of a single technology, according to two speakers at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in London this week.

The same technology could produce energy savings in the United Kingdom of up to £700m a year, they claimed.

The name of the magic technology is tribology. Though it has been around under that name for about 15 years, we probably still need to record that it is the technology of "interacting surfaces in relative motion"—that is, it is concerned with such things as friction, wear and lubrication.

When the strange new name came into vogue in the mid-1960s, it was seen as offering the prospect of great savings in industry. Good tribological practice could result in significant reductions in maintenance costs and better-quality products.

Since then the emphasis has changed to an awareness that economy in energy and in materials is an even more significant measure of the importance of tribology.

This at least is the thesis of Dr Peter Jost and Dr Jack Schofield, as detailed in their James Chryson Lecture this week. Dr Jost, a company chairman, is the principal tribology man, having given birth to the subject in a report for the Department of Education and

Science in 1966. His co-author this week is a senior lecturer (in tribology) at Liverpool Polytechnic.

Primary energy savings can be obtained through tribology simply (though in practice it may not be simple) by reducing friction—through the redesign of bearings, for example.

Secondary savings are possible by minimizing wear and so reducing the need for more parts to be manufactured to replace those which are worn.

And, indeed, there are tertiary savings: those obtained by not having to make the materials from which replacement parts are made. All these direct savings can be calculated in energy terms and are substantial; often a primary saving will result in a larger secondary saving and a still larger tertiary saving.

In Britain, the big users of energy are the transport (23 per cent), industrial (37 per cent) and domestic (27 per cent) sectors. In the transport sector, cars in particular offer great scope for saving energy through tribology. Between 0.8 and 1.5 per cent of the total United Kingdom energy consumption is used to produce motor cars—and about 15 per cent of the total to propel them.

Engines and transmissions are obvious targets for appropriate research and development. Apart from attempts to improve the basic efficiency of the petrol engine, there is scope

Kenneth Owen

for reductions in the energy wasted through friction, wear and ineffective sealing. Some of these latter losses are not caused simply by ignorance of available technology, but are the result of conscious design decisions aimed, for example, at lowering production costs or "eliminating" the need to lubricate.

The universal coupling is quoted as an example of this practice by Jost and Schofield. The present version contains a single change of special lubricant (which cannot be replenished) and has a limited life of two or three years. Its conventional lubricated predecessor lasted the life of the car.

This and many other examples in motor vehicles contributed to the energy savings of £22m to £182m for an R and D cost of £1m for each of four years; and lubricants, £97m-£196m savings for three years' R and D at £53,000 a year.

These are the type of savings that would make the 100 mpg small family car a realistic probability. With "some engine thermal improvements", the authors change their assessment from one of probability to certainty.

Though no estimates are given for these thermal developments, there is clearly great scope for improvement here. The efficiency of a petrol engine is only 20-22 per cent, and of the diesel engine 33-37 per cent. Jost and Schofield look to improvements "from chemical thermal treatments, oxides, ceramics, carbides and inter-metallic coatings, and advanced lubricants. In the traditional engine, about one-third of the fuel energy is lost through the transfer of heat into the cooling water by way of the cylinder

petrol-engine process, also merits further R and D but both research costs and benefits in this area are speculative.

Identifiable costs and benefits are estimated by the two authors as follows: piston rings, a £33m annual saving for an R and D cost of £400,000 a year for three or four years; transmissions, savings of £123m to £182m for an R and D cost of £1m for each of four years; and lubricants, £97m-£196m savings for three years' R and D at £53,000 a year.

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walls. In the industrial sector, again, the authors' detailed analysis points to substantial potential energy savings. For an R and D investment of about £5.1m spread over five years, a triple direct energy saving could be achieved: up to £50m a year through improved performance in power generation and turbines; up to £140m through improved performance in the manufacturing and process industries; and up to £26m in secondary and tertiary savings in the metallurgical and other industries in the area of maintenance.

In the domestic sector, there are many examples of short-life products whose design ignores the rising cost and shortage of energy and raw materials. Programmers and motor modules in washing machines and spin driers are among these. Failures are fairly common, components cannot be replaced, and replacement of the complete unit is the expensive and wasteful norm.

In summary, then, energy savings of between £465m and £700m a year in the transport, industrial and domestic sectors are possible through improved tribology, for an estimated R and D spending of £12.3m over five years.

Business Diary: No tubes mañana • Morris memories

Consolation at last for those poor tormented souls who have to rely on the London Tube to take them to work. It could be worse: you might live in Madrid, for instance.

The Tube workers there have just given notice of a particularly malevolent form of industrial action. From next Friday they have promised to go on strike until their demands are met.

The scenario, as they say, may look familiar. One can almost imagine some Hispanic Ray Buckton piping through the columns of El Pais: "I've never seen my caballeros so angry."

What sets the Madrid Metro men apart from their Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) counterparts, for the moment anyway, is the timing of the strike. They will stop work for one full day at intervals of about four days until December 31 unless the Metro company concedes a 15 per cent pay rise.

The first shut-down comes, appropriately enough, on Friday the 13th and a further 83 days have been singled out, apparently at random.

The one million Spaniards who travel on the Tube daily are, naturally enough, mortified. The company is offering a 10 per cent salary increase and says that the population of Madrid will not be the only losers if the strike goes ahead.

It estimates that 83 workless days would cost the average worker nearly 23 per cent of his or her annual salary, or about 3,259 pesetas, roughly £17, for each week.

The public clamour to see BL's new Mini Metro being made, which Business Diary mentioned earlier this week, is nothing new to the Morris arm of the company.

While researching his book The Annual Outing and Other Excursions, Alan Delgado dug up an interesting publicity blurb about a coach trip to the Morris works, Oxford, in the 1930s.

"Thousands of men are working thousands of cars are taking shape," "Soundness Motor Services told their customers of 1938. "From the specialized Morris factories the parts arrive at Cowley continuously. Engines... bodies... wheels... axles... chassis frames... radiators... a constant stream is arriving, to be instantly sorted out for assembly."

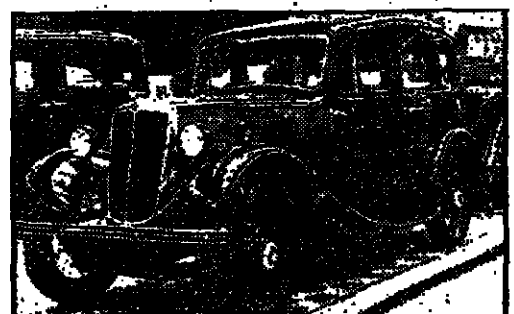
"Then, as the chassis frames move slowly along the conveyors, various parts are assembled at different points along the line. Everything happens with clockwork precision. Men and machines are synchronized."

"From out of a maze of separate parts, complete cars emerge. They grow before your eyes. It is a spectacle worth travelling hundreds of miles to see: a symbol of modernity and progress; an experience you will value all your life."

"An outbreak of extreme sensitivity has suppressed a series of wooden spoon awards for the advertising industry which Business Diary mentioned on Wednesday. The Creative Circle, a band of creative directors who seek to maintain professional standards in advertising, had come up with the bright idea of doubling its usual awards which are due to be presented next month."

Every "best of..." category would be twinned with a wooden spoon award in such a way that it left the unfortunate holder with no doubts that his efforts were less than impressive.

It all sounded great fun to Business Diary, even though the



A prewar Morris Eight from Cowley.

Ah, they don't write promotional copy like that any more.

The return fare for this little charabanc jaunt was 15s 6d, including tea. One of the models which grew before your eyes was the magnificent Morris Eight pictured here, which perhaps explains the outing's popularity.

Delgado says directly of the description that it "makes interesting reading in the light of working conditions in the motor industry today." Who would disagree?

chagrin, noted in the February issue of Holiday Which? just published concerns disclaimers and exemption clauses in the booking conditions.

The association succeeded in getting the Unfair Contract Terms Act through Parliament as a private member's Bill in 1977. Since then clauses disclaiming or limiting liability for anything done (or not done) by people not directly employed by the tour operator (like the airline and the hotel) have had no legal effect.

Yet Holiday Which? found that most of the brochures they examined still contain such clauses. The tour operator is responsible for providing the holiday you have been led to expect. "Holiday Which?" says.

Only one working woman in eight in the European Community claims to be at a disadvantage compared with men over salary, promotion, training or working conditions. The level of dissatisfaction is actually lower in Britain than in other European countries.

The surprising figures come from a study sponsored by the European Commission and recently submitted to the European Parliament.

However, it still leaves four million discontented working women in Europe. Another four million believe that other women are at a disadvantage even if they themselves are not.

The reason that women in the United Kingdom are more content than their continental counterparts, according to Hélène Riffault, the author of the report, is that in Britain more women work only among other women, so that sex discrimination is less evident.

There would be scant evidence, in any case, for supposing that it had anything to do with our Equal Opportunities Act. Almost half the British respondents had never heard of it or actually denied its existence.

The Gulf emirate of Sharjah has just built a beautiful new airport complete with every modern facility except a steady stream of incoming flights. Word from the Gulf is that when a local reporter rang the management to suggest an interview the voice on the phone said: "Sorry, I'd love to see you but I've got a plane coming in on that day."

David Hewson

The Trans-Oceanic Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Thursday, 5th February, 1981 at 12.15pm.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31st October, 1980.

	1980	1979	% Change
Total Revenue (see below)	£1,730,061	£1,532,979	+12.9%
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£ 940,407	£ 836,456	+12.4%
Earnings per Ordinary Share	7.88p	6.80p	+15.6%
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	7.00p	6.20p	+12.9%
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	299.20p	224.70p	+33.2%

The comparative figures for 1979 have been restated to exclude non-recurring income received that year as a result of the removal of dividend restraint.

In his Statement in the Annual Report the Chairman commented:

"The removal of exchange controls in 1979 and the exemption from tax on capital gains granted to investment trusts in the Spring budget has given the Company greater flexibility to manage its portfolio. Your Directors saw this as an opportunity to put greater emphasis on overseas investment, particularly in view of the strength of Sterling. Thus the percentage of net assets invested in U.K. securities has fallen over the year from 60.5% to 42.2%. The portfolio's overseas emphasis has been mainly in the U.S.A., where the percentage of net assets invested has risen over the year from 30.4% to 39.2%. If Canada is included, the Company's total North American interests now exceed in value its holdings in the U.K."

Ignoring geographic boundaries it would be fair to say that the portfolio's main areas of emphasis are in energy and technology, which represent approximately 29% and 18% of the portfolio by market value respectively. Your Directors see substantial opportunities in these industries and expect the Company's portfolio will continue to emphasise these high-growth areas of the free world's economy. Greater emphasis is also being given to investing a proportion of the Company's assets in unquoted venture capital projects, which it is hoped will eventually provide a greater return than can be expected from more mature companies.

Most of the Company's venture capital investments and many of its overseas investments do not pay dividends to shareholders at the present time. Moreover, the yield obtainable by investing overseas is, in general, less than can be obtained by maintaining a balanced portfolio in the U.K. However, because of the enhanced growth prospects of these investments, their potential for future dividend growth is much higher. Your Directors are aware of the problems of balancing the need for a good level of income to pay progressive dividends on the Company's shares with the long-term growth aims of the Company. These differing requirements are continually under review and it is our intention to continue to seek capital growth while attempting to provide shareholders with increasing dividends as we have been able to do over the past decade.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 48 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4EJ.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Equities fall back on MLR disappointment

No change in the minimum lending rate yesterday came as a disappointment to a market that had been steadily improving over the last few days hoping for a 1 per cent cut.

After a cautious start, which saw some profit-taking ahead of the end of the account today, many buyers withdrew to await the MLR decision. The news left conditions drab in a thin market, although with little selling pressure.

The FT Index, which had fallen only 1 point to 477.9, dropped a further 3.3 by noon, but with hopes abandoned of an MLR cut it fell further, to close 6.8 points down at 472.1.

Dealers' attention was firmly following gilts. But, opening in the morning at steady prices, longer attracted little attention until after the announcement when they eased off. By closing time, they had recovered £1 with hopes of a cut in MLR ruled out until nearer the Budget.

Shorts, however, saw some heavy investment buying prior to the expected news, gathering £1 by lunchtime. After initial strength, shorts drifted back £1. Dealers expressed concern over reports that the Government is reconsidering its policy of allowing sterling to float.

The low-key atmosphere stretched into the leading industrial, with dealers reporting a very quiet day, even though many had already relinquished any hopes of a cut. The sector looked dull from the outset and leading equities fell back several pence, some improving later in the day. Disappointment knocked 4p off ICI at 292p, later recovering

to 294p. Beecham fell to 177p, a 3p drop and Glaxo was down to 272p. GKN, on the news of further large-scale redundancies, dropped 3p to 142p and Courtaulds fell 1p to 55p. Lucas, which had gathered strength from the Nissan plant plans, fell back 2p to 171p on profit-taking, but Hawker Siddeley continued its upward move, 2p better at 264p.

Electricals saw the greatest setbacks with the leaders suffering losses of up to 13p following recent strength. GEC dropped 13p to 618p, while thornEMI shed 9p to 282p. Unitech recovered from its recent profits warning, up 7p to 23p, but this has still had its effects on Diploma, down 7p at 153p, and Electrocomponents, at 638p, a drop of 5p. ICI, however, which attracted investment demand, was able to pull back 4p to 35p.

The results from Loughborough failed to stimulate the shares early in the day, dropping 1p to 103p, but with the news of a better dividend and profits, it managed to pick up to close after hours at 108p.

Satisfactory results from Blundell-Permoglaze added 2p to 81p and similar good news

from IDC saw the shares firm 7p to 65p.

Other rises saw European Ferries celebrating the end of its seamen's dispute, climbing 3p to 152p. Offer terms from predator Turnbull Scott left shares unchanged at 405p, but Stag Line added 3p to 405p.

Dealers have been reporting renewed interest in finance to oil group. Ministers Assets, where Britannia Airways holds 12.5 per cent. The price has risen, this account, from 63p to 70p, closing 1p off at 69p yesterday. The attraction is its 2.5 per cent stake in block 30/23 in the North Sea which straddles the recently upgraded Argyle Field.

After Lee Cooper's £25m contract with Czechoslovakia, the shares were 15p higher at 166p and speculative gains were made by Aquascutum "A", adding 3p to 31p. Unaffected by Avana's share disposal, Robertson Foods rose 3p to 155p and Avana was up 7p to 210p with the bid still in the air.

Meanwhile, trading results from M. L. Holdings added 5p

to 255p and Aaronson Bros, also reporting, gained 1p to 57p.

But Christie-Tyler lost 3p to 39p on first-half losses. Investment recommendations boosted Henlys 4p to 82p and put 5p on ERF at 52p. Both L. Barget, adding 10p to 160p, and Old Swan Hotel, 8p to 68p, rose on speculation. Chubb added 2p to 77p on comments suggesting a takeover by GEC.

Dupont weakened a further 2p to 7p on continuing fears that Government aid will not be forthcoming. Otherwise the engineering sector was not too badly affected by MLR expectations. Brown dropped 1p to 72p and Vosper remained unchanged at 101p.

After Wednesday's boost, breweries tended to retreat with the leading shares dropping across the line. Bass shed 3p to 205p, Grand Met 2p to 166p and Wathead was 1p lower at 151p.

Banks, unperturbed by the general disappointment, opened firm but not of future pay talks as most of the sector losing further ground. Barclays dropped 3p to 383p and Nat West fell 1p to 365p, but Lloyds remained unchanged at 325p.

Midland bucked the trend with a 7p rise to 318p.

Financials had a quiet day and although there was renewed support early on for ENRC with a 4p increase to 31p the shares fell back to 29p by the close. UDT, still waiting bid developments from Lloyds & Scottish and Trustee Savings Bank, shed 1p to 29p.

The spectacular feature in oils was the exploration agreement between Cluff, climbing 15p to 340p, Celtic Basin, up 25p to 100p, and BP which fell 8p to 408p. Otherwise the market was dull and leaders closed easier with Shell down 4p at 428p, Lasso shedding 15p to 653p and Burmah down 3p to 186p.

Property and insurance sectors, which had particularly looked forward to the benefit of cheaper money, were both relatively unchanged, with a mixture of rises and falls. In the property market, Hamersley "A" added 10p to 625p, Haslemere continued upward with 2p to 338p, but Land Secs was unchanged at 388p.

Equity turnover on February 4 was £127.484m (bargains, 11,502). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, GEC, GUS, ICL, Lough, Chubb, British Land, Rascal and Ultra.

Traded options: Dealers reported a total of 1,147 contracts with over half of the trades coming from Lough which attracted 642. Other trades were Rascal with 196 and Lasso with 16.

Traditional options: Dealers reported quiet trading conditions on declaration day. Calls were made in Lough at 10p, Town & Country at 29p and ICI at 7p.

Turnbull counter-bid of £4.9m for Stag Line

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Turnbull Scott has emerged as a second bidder for Stag Line, capping the 355p a share offer from Hunting Gibson with terms worth 400p a share. This values Stag Line at £4.9m.

Shares in Stag Line had been trading well above the price offered by Hunting Gibson, anticipating a higher offer. They closed yesterday 3p up at 405p.

The Stag Line board, which together with family interests controls about 40 per cent of the equity, said last month that it was aware of the possibility of another offer, but it was not clear last night whether this statement referred to Turnbull Scott or whether there may yet

be another bidder waiting in the wings.

Mr Reginald Pender, managing director, deflected all questioning on this issue with "No comment." He said the board would be meeting to discuss the latest development.

Mr Graham Turnbull, a director of Turnbull Scott, said that both companies knew each other well but had not met since the middle of January. He said that Stag Line would fit well with Turnbull Scott, whose profits came from mostly smaller than Stag Line's. Turnbull Scott had net assets of £12.1m at March 31, 1980.

Turnbull Scott, which has a share of 0.36 per cent in Stag, lost £237,000 pretax in the year to last March but in the ensuing

six months made a £360,000 profit.

The offer for Stag Line will include an alternative to cash in the form of loan stock or notes, and the terms will be contained in the formal offer document.

Hunting Gibson, the initial bidder, had already received an irrevocable undertaking to accept from Roper Holding in respect of its 29.9 per cent stake in Stag Line. The underbidder would get a majority holding in Stag.

A spokesman for Hunting Gibson refused to comment on the counter bid from Turnbull Scott. "We haven't had time to consider it," the spokesman said.

Margins dip at Blundell-Permoglaze

By Catherine Gunn

Paint manufacturer Blundell-Permoglaze Holdings took a larger share of a declining paint market last year, but its margins were trimmed by rising costs. Pretax profits for the year to October 31 were £1.84m, down from £2.19m the previous year, on sales up 14.2 per cent to £23.7m.

The total dividend has been reduced from 6.85p gross after a lower final payment of 5.37p gross. The board is confident that this year will go well.

A heavy de-stocking programme last year meant a £42,000 addition to the group's tax bill in the form of a clawback of stock relief, and knocked attributable profits down from £1.94m to £1.61m. Mr Newlands Bassett Smith, the retiring chairman, said yesterday that had not stock relief had to be calculated at November 14 as the Government required, the group would have received tax relief of £20,000. However, the picture should balance out this year.

Meanwhile, lower stock levels maintained a firm which would otherwise have been used to finance stocks. This was instead placed on deposit, and more than covered the group's interest costs, producing a net credit of approximately £20,000.

Decorative paints produced 75 per cent of the group's revenue, pretax profits were pushed sales in volume terms up by around 5 per cent. The paint industry as a whole reports a volume decline of around 7 per cent. The decorative paint market continued to decline in the first two months of this financial year, but there are some signs of improvement.

The industrial division supplies domestic appliance manufacturers, and the joinery, general engineering and motor industries. Reflecting their problems, their contribution fell from 10 to 7 per cent of group profits, although sales have remained at 14 per cent of group turnover.

Aaronson payout held but profit is halved

By Rosemary Unsworth

Aaronson Bros, the chipboard and veneer merchants, found its margins under increasingly severe pressure last year and pretax profits were halved. However the dividend was maintained.

With turnover rising by 17 per cent from £47m to £55m, pretax profits fell from £4m to £2.1m in the months to September 30, 1980. They had managed to hang on to its market share in exports where sales rose by 37 per cent to £11m. At the same time margins were

clipped by the strength of sterling as goods came in from the EEC, Spain and Sweden, and the group was unable to pass on the effects of inflation, higher energy costs and the rise in prices of oil-based raw materials.

On top of these factors, Aaronson's capital expenditure programme continued, at a cost of £4.8m, which helped to push borrowings up by £5m to £11m and force interest charges from

£740,000 to £1.48m. Capital expenditure should be sharply reduced this year as most of the plant improvements have now been completed and Aaronson should benefit from improved production capacity.

Capital expenditure in the last five years has come to about £18m.

In addition, the group has strengthened its position in the home market by the acquisition of an undisclosed sum, several distribution companies since the year end.

Reorganization costs for the operation came to £900,000, are included in the results; an extraordinary item. Before the acquisitions, Aaronson had distribution links in the Irish Republic, Northern Ireland and Scotland. It plans to use its outlets for smaller, more local deliveries of goods.

The final dividend has been maintained at 4.28p gross with the interim of 1.71p gross gives a same again total of 6

Arthur Guinness chairman's warning

At yesterday's annual meeting of Arthur Guinness, the chairman, the Earl of Iveagh, told shareholders that, as far as non-brewing side is concerned, he expected the group would be able to improve on 1979-80's performance. But he said it would take more than one year to get back to the 1978-79 profit levels. The group's pre-tax profits fell from £52.9m to £43.3m last time and the non-brewing side was responsible for most of the drop.

Guinness's experience in the first quarter of the new year has shown little respite from the situation reported in the review of 1979-80 and the chairman warned that he could only remain very cautious in forecasting how the rest of the year might run.

applications getting 71 per cent or a minimum of 2,000 shares. Letters of acceptance will be posted on February 10.

Dunton Group for unlisted market

The offer by Mr A. K. Sore and Mr A. L. Ward for 840,000 ordinary shares in the Dunton Group has closed. Before the offer, Mr Sore and Mr Ward held 6.26m shares (54.75 per cent) and 937,500 shares (8.19 per cent) respectively. The offer was accepted for 191,100 (1.67 per cent).

Mr Sore and Mr Ward intend to make available to the staff of Bulk Earthmoving, a Dunton offshoot, the first 100,000 shares acquired under the offer and to place the balance in the unlisted securities market.

Caparo may decide on CMT bid today

Private investment company Caparo may reveal plans to launch its long-awaited counter-bid for Central Manufacturing & Trading today. Mr Swraj Paul, who runs Caparo, said yesterday that following the Takeover Panel's ultimatum to the company to make up its mind by Monday morning on whether to bid or not, he has received additional information from CMT. He should be able to come to a decision today.

Hanson Trust, which has 13.3 per cent of CMT, made a £13m bid for it on November 28. This was followed in December by Caparo's statement that it might make a rival offer. Hanson's extended 49p a share offer expires on February 13.

Avana sells 6pc stake in Robertson

Avana Group has sold its 6 per cent stake in Robertson Foods at 152p a share, raising more than £1m.

The group said it still planned to proceed with its £17m all-share offer for Robertson, the jam group, and that the money would be used to reduce Robertson's borrowings if the bid went through.

The stake is believed to have gone into several hands. Mr Christopher Robertson, chairman, said he would not expect a second bidder to appear before the defence document goes out.

Defence interests lift ML

By Our Financial Staff

ML Holdings, the piano frames to electronic warfare group, has increased profits for the six months to September 30 from £374,000 to £442,000 on turnover up from £8.9m to £12.4m.

Some 65 per cent of ML's business is related to defence spending and growth here has continued unabated. Signalling and control systems also remain profitable, but Crown Foundry, which makes piano frames and general castings, lost about £200,000.

The 40 per cent increase in turnover against the 18 per cent increase in profits reflects a strong defence order book, but profits on which tend to be taken at later stages of individual contracts.



Mr Ralph Price, chairman of M.L. Holdings.

Nevertheless, for the present year growth is likely to level off from last year's 25 per cent rise to £10.3m pretax and the probable outcome is for £1.2m to £1.3m.

In the longer term ML still looks for defence growth in the region of inflation plus 3 per cent upon which Nato spending is based. The company is still set against disposing of its loss-making. The Crown Foundry business is seen as a potential substantial profit maker.

The interim dividend at 2.86p gross is unchanged. A tax provision of £230,000 at this stage is unlikely to be payable so earnings a share should end up on an unchanged dividend of 2.86p. The shares at 255p, up 5p yesterday, yield 3.9 per cent with a historic p/e ratio of 6.8 with the figures adjusted for the £2m rights issue in September.

Sharp improvement at Western Mining

By Michael Prest

Western Mining, the Australian exploration and minerals company, raised first half net operating profits by 28 per cent to £531.9m (£16m). But the dividend has been held at 7p.

BH South, Central Norseman, Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie and Hill 50 Gold Mine, in all of which Western Mining has a significant stake, also increased their profits by wide margins.

The big change in Western Mining's profits came from increased gold production. Sales of gold in the six months were 4,173 ounces. Western Mining produced none in the same period of 1979.

The company has also benefited from the sale of 35,560 ordinary shares to the same period by Central Norseman Gold, in which Western Mining has a 50.5 per cent stake.

Another feature was nickel sales. Despite a 6 per cent fall in sales to 19,765 tonnes,

revenue was up by 8.3 per cent. But higher prices for cobalt and for nickel during most of the period were offset by an average 4.9 per cent strengthening of the Australian dollar against the American dollar.

BH South, which is 80.2 per cent owned by Western Mining, had consolidated net earnings of £52.68m against £51.78m in the same period of 1979. The company has declared an interim dividend of 4 cents.

Part of the £525.2m BH South raised from the sale of five million Coonzie Rio Tinto of Australia shares the used to pay off loans. BH South says increased dividends from Alcoa Australia and CRA virtually offset the loss of dividends from companies sold to CRA.

Carr Boyd Minerals, an entirely separate company from Western Mining, has reported that Esso Exploration has the right to earn a 40 per cent interest in Carr Boyd's Leonora gold prospect if it drills a minimum of 1,000 metres.

Interim loss at upholstery maker

By Rosemary Unsworth

As forecast at the annual meeting, Christie-Tyler, the Welsh-based furniture and upholstery manufacturer, made a loss at the interim stage and has halved the dividend.

Pretax profits of £1.6m were turned into losses of £445,000 in the six months to October while turnover slipped by 5 per cent from £24.9m to £23.4m.

Christie-Tyler reckons that its upholstery volume, 90 per cent of the business, declined by 10 per cent over the period compared with an industry fall of 15 per cent so that it has lost its market share.

The pretax loss is the first incurred since the group's listing in 1972 and reflects the exceptionally poor trading conditions in the furniture market.

Mr George Williams, the chairman, said: "Redundancy payments to 250 employees who left last summer and closure costs amounted to £500,000. But the group points out that since the end of the rationalization programme in September it has been in profit, although at an unsatisfactory level."

Imports have also increased because of sterling's strength, further reducing Christie's margins, but the group said that it would be disappointed if it failed to work out the loss by the year end.

Under the new stock relief proposals £500,000 of deferred tax has been released, pushing after-tax profit to £736,000 compared with £773,000 the previous year.

Thyssen holds payout as profits decline

Net profits of Thyssen, the West German steel group, slipped to DM117.3m (£23.5m) in the year to September 30, 1980, from DM167.3m the year before.

Herr Dieter Spethmann, the managing board chairman, said the profits were satisfactory in the light of trading difficulties throughout the world. In the first quarter shares the used to pay off loans.

Henry Kuhn, the finance director, said for foreign business would pick up this year and includes a clear improvement in the results of the group's Budd Co in the United States. Budd recorded a loss and a 25 per cent sales fall to £1,100m (£470m) last year because of

International

the poor state of the car industry.

Looking to steel production, officials said utilization of crude steel was at 70 per cent of capacity, little changed from the fourth quarter of 1980 when quotas were imposed.

Steel accounted for 26 per cent of Thyssen's overall 1979-80 world turnover of DM34,000m, which included sales within the group. Steel turnover rose to DM7,700m from DM7,800m.

Thyssen also reported that its pretax earnings on specialty steels rose to DM720m from DM72m.

As announced in December, Thyssen intends to pay an unchanged DM4 dividend for the year.

Natwest offshoot dips

The National Bank of North America, the New York-based bank, reported a 19 per cent dip in profits to \$432m, yesterday reported disappointing results for 1980. Its net income fell from \$17m to \$12m (about £5m) after sharply higher provisions for bad debts and write off of \$3.3m for loss on proposed sale of leased assets.

Income during the year rose from \$144m to \$173m but operating expenses went up from \$117m to \$144m and bad

debts increased from \$14m to \$23.5m.

Mr Thomas Frost, the president and chief executive who was brought in from British headquarters to run the bank, said that bad debts included \$6m on losses to bank syndicates in which NBNA took part. These include Chrysler and ITT, the troubled computer company.

Part of the increased expenses were not only due to inflation, but also to development costs.

Thyssen said that utilization of crude steel was at 70 per cent of capacity, little changed from the fourth quarter of 1980 when quotas were imposed.

Steel accounted for 26 per cent of Thyssen's overall 1979-80 world turnover of DM34,000m, which included sales within the group. Steel turnover rose to DM7,700m from DM7,800m.

Thyssen also reported that its pretax earnings on specialty steels rose to DM720m from DM72m.

As announced in December, Thyssen intends to pay an unchanged DM4 dividend for the year.

Profits leap at Mining Supplies

By Peter Wainwright

Mining Supplies, the Do-caster company which recent bought Laurence Scott, electrical machinery and control gear maker for £5.5m, reported a 25 per cent increase in turnover to £1.7m on 15th October 25 even though engineering strike hit the company half-year.

Sales rose from £10m to £14.1m but pretax profits fell from £551,000 to £237m. The progress is not entirely surprising, because during the bid it had grown to £1.7m-on.

Mr Scott, Mining Supplies said the turnover had jumped from £8.4m to £11.8m and pretax profits from £300,000 to £2m in the first five months of the year. The group is continuing its normal practice of not paying an interim dividend, but it has already said that it plans to at least maintain the gross tot at 2.86p a share.

These figures include nothing from Scott, which is as we because that company had to admit last year that losses in the first five months of 1980 had grown to £1.7m-on, £160,000 short of the loss for the whole of the year before. Reorganization was costing possibly hundreds of thousands of pounds of exceptional expenditure.

The figures, by their nature in no way reflect National Co Board cutbacks.

The group reports a "reasonably" good order book. It thought that it has suffered less severely than other suppliers because the cuts fell most heavily on roof supports not a Mining Supplies specialty.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crs	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rosminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of 10,000 p.p. or over 12% and 10,000 p.p. or over 12% and

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28, Lovat Lane London, EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980 High	1980 Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Gross Div (%)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airprung Group	62	-	6.7	10.8	5.6
44	21	Armstrong & Rhodes	42	-	1.4	3.3	17.3
192	92	Barton Hill	189	-	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	95	-	5.5	5.8	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	110	-	6.4	5.8	3.4
110	53	Frederick Parker	53	-	11.0	20.8	2.4
110	74	George Blair	75	-	3.1	4.1	4.1
110	59	Jackson Group	108	-	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	119	-	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	Robert Jenkins	330	-	31.3	9.5	-
50	50	Scruttons "A"	53	-	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	215	Torday Limited	215	-	15.1	7.0	2.7
23	10	Twinkl-Ord	121	-	-	-	-
90	69	Twinkl-Ord	76	-	15.0	19.7	-
56	35	Unilock Holdings	38	+1	3.0	7.9	5.8
103	81	Walter Alexander	103	+1	5.7	5.5	5.7
261	181	W. S. Yeates	261	+1	12.1	4.6	4.3

IT'S TIME FOR BUSINESSES TO TAKE A STAND.

New customers, new products, new ideas, new markets...you'll find them all at The Sunday Times Business to Business Exhibition, Earls Court, London, June 7-10, 1981.

For details about booking a stand, write to: The Sunday Times, Business to Business Exhibition, c/o Silver Collins & Co. Ltd., 227 Tooley Street, London SE1. Or phone 01-407 4046.



It gives Lonrho much pleasure to offer a satisfactory year's results to the shareholders

R. W. Rowland, Chief Executive

Dear Shareholder,

Lonrho has achieved record profits and turnover this year, largely due to the performance of the mining, agricultural and hotel divisions of the Group. These three areas of business alone did well enough to overcome the effects of the general recession.

The balance sheet has been considerably strengthened—assets employed in the Group are now almost £850 million. Net current assets are up by £78 million to £147 million, with a major increase in cash balances which stood at £108 million at the year end.

The underlying strength of your Company is the balanced range of its business—from raw materials and agriculture to manufacturing and retailing.

The Group is represented in 64 countries and employs over 140,000 people.

I hope you will find the brief review of the year's business of interest, and also glance at the graphs and figures on pages 52 and 53. We have every reason to believe that our steady rate of expansion can be maintained.

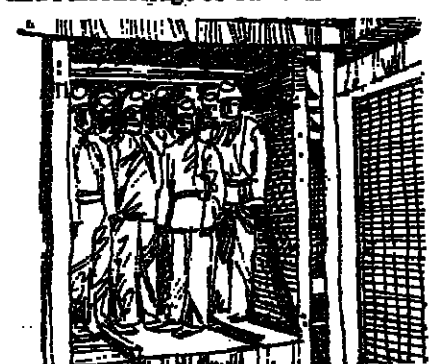
Mining

Mining profits increased from £26 million to £63 million in a good year characterised by firm metal prices, higher production and controlled costs.

The average price of gold realised was well in excess of that for the previous year. Total Group gold production was 367,000 ounces, with improved milling facilities at two of our properties and the acquisition of two small but productive mines.

Our 86 per cent. owned subsidiary, Duiker Exploration Ltd., has exercised its 36 per cent. participation rights in a major new mine with the Anglo American Corporation. This property, Eastern Gold Holdings, is forecast to produce 350,000 ounces of gold annually.

Western Platinum increased production by six per cent. to 131,000 ounces of platinum group metals. Firm prices prevailed throughout the year and costs were stable. Last year I referred to the research programme for the second higher-grade reef, and I am glad to tell you that the associated technical problems have been resolved. We are currently spending an estimated £14 million on exploiting this extensive new ore body. We expect to start production next year, building up rapidly to an additional 110,000 ounces of platinum group metals annually. Profits should consequently increase by about £10 million per annum at current prices and cost levels. The Lonrho Group refinery has been sold and is now wholly owned by Western Platinum, the mining company in which we hold 50.4 per cent. Our partners are Superior Oil of Houston and Falconbridge of Canada.



Miners at Ashanti

The collieries increased production to 2.62 million tonnes of bituminous coal and 535,000 tonnes of anthracite. We have started work on opening a new anthracite mine with an annual productive capacity of 600,000 tonnes. Asbestos and copper markets remained depressed. Our small-scale operations, however, again contributed useful profits.

Gold from Ashanti

In the light of firm prices, gold continues to be our principal exploration target, and we are researching a number of deposits. Where viability has been proved, current work is aimed at gaining additional information for mine planning. We also prospect for other precious metals, base metals and coal.

Agriculture and Ranching

The world price of sugar improved rapidly during the course of the year and overall production exceeded 380,000 tons.

The new Dwangwa sugar project in Malawi is now working extremely well and some 50,000 tons of sugar are expected in 1981. The contribution to Group profits from our sugar operations is important to the Group.

The Group's tea estates were adversely affected by drought and the drop in tea prices this year.

Your Company's other agricultural projects in Africa, including particularly coffee, timber and tobacco, and the growing of mushrooms, maize, wheat, barley, soya beans, onions and potatoes had a good year. The maize and wheat crops in Kenya this year have been especially notable.

The total herd of beef cattle is still 100,000 head after sales of 20,000 head.

Finally, this year saw the completion of phase one at the Kenana Sugar Project in the Sudan. This scheme, which was invented and planned by your Company in 1971, continues to be the largest single agricultural project in Africa and the Middle East.

We were responsible for the site selection, the soil analysis, the development plans and the successful negotiations for the funding by Pan-Arab institutions. It now has Arab management, but Lonrho, as founder member, continues to be a shareholder of Kenana.

Hotels

We have now had a full year as 50 per cent. owners of Princess Properties in partnership with Mr. Daniel K. Ludwig, of New York. We are happy to report that the Princess hotel division's net profits reflected a 180 per cent. increase as compared with the previous year. The six fine resort hotels in the Bahamas, Bermuda and Acapulco, Mexico, continue their vigorous improvement policies. The Company also owns the Sir Francis Drake in San Francisco.



The Bermuda Hamilton Princess Hotel

By agreement with the Government of Mexico, the Princess Group is expanding its world-famous Acapulco Princess by construction of a further 320 rooms. It is proposing to build on its Acapulco site a major series of landscaped apartment blocks.

In Mexico City, Princess Properties owns a magnificent site on the Paseo de la Reforma for the construction of a new Princess hotel and office block. We expect to finish planning and initiate this project in 1981/82.

Despite the general downturn in business for hotels in the U.K., this has been another successful year for the Metropole Group.

In Brighton, a record 175 conferences and exhibitions were held, and in Birmingham another record was achieved of 475, maintaining our premier position amongst U.K. conference and exhibition hotels. The London Metropole's overall

occupancy was 86 per cent., although tourism to the capital declined. Upgrading continues at the Metropole hotels. All new hotel building works are carried out by the Group's building company, Fassnidge, Son & Norris.

Motors

Jack Barclay, the world's largest distributors of Rolls Royce and Bentley motor cars, made a significant contribution to the results of the wholly owned Dutton-Forsyth Group. Orders for the new Rolls Royce Silver Spirit exceeded expectations.

The Volkswagen-Andi franchise had an excellent year, with the introduction of the Volkswagen Jetta and Audi 200 to the existing range and with unit sales of 79,000.

A new £2 million extension to the computerised distribution centre at Milton Keynes was completed in October, in order to meet the increased



Rolls Royce from Jack Barclay

demand for vehicle parts and accessories from 355 well spread dealerships.

In East and Central Africa sales of trucks and tractors increased by over 28 per cent., but in West Africa sales have not yet returned to the levels attained in past years.

In Nigeria we have signed a nationwide distribution agreement for

locally produced Mercedes commercial vehicles and we assembled and sold 35,000 Yamaha motor cycles. Over 7,000 outboard engines were sold, and volume production of glass fibre workboats has started up.

Aircraft and Cargo

Tradewinds, the cargo airline flying Boeing 707's out of Gatwick Airport, staggered through the year, against overseas competition, which it found difficult to meet on equal terms. We shall need to find a new formula.

The Beechcraft dealership in Africa sold 70 of these useful medium range planes.

Kendall Globe, travel and freight agents in the United Kingdom, has expanded comfortably.

Lonrho operates medium range turbo-prop aircraft in Africa and one Grumman II jet. We also represent Grumman in most African countries.

Textiles

The range of co-ordinated bedlinen marketed under the brand name "Accord" proceeded as planned to be the number two brand in the United Kingdom. 1980 saw the fruition of plans for the Brentford's chain of shops, which aims at a mass market. New store openings brought the chain to 50 by December, 1980. Store image and ranges have been completely restyled. Lonrho Textiles Limited continues to make encouraging progress towards profitability.

Our textile subsidiaries in Africa have been very successful, increasing profits by 20 per cent. David Whitehead in Malawi exported 40 per cent. of their production to ten countries, in addition to catering for local demand. Production and sales of cloth in Zimbabwe exceeded 20 million metres.

Printing and Publishing

The acquisition of Harrison and Sons by SUITS was concluded during the early part of this year. This famous group prints company reports, text books and many other types of specialised paper, in addition to being one of the foremost printers of postage stamps in the world.

A highlight of the year for Harrison and Sons was the printing of the Post Office's commemorative stamp celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's 80th birthday.

Holmes McDougall, who print educational books, magazines and posters, had a subdued year partly because of Local Authority spending cuts.

Daniel Greenaway & Sons, the Group owned City, financial and security printers, are set to become the most sophisticated financial printers in Europe with the installation of computerised typesetting in its London factory during the year ahead.

Outramps, publishers of the "Glasgow Herald" and "Evening Times", moved to their new premises in Albion Street, Glasgow. Sales of the "Glasgow Herald" and "Evening Times" average 330,000 copies a day during the year, whilst advertising volume was at a similar level to 1979. Outramps have announced plans to launch a new Scottish Sunday newspaper.

Overall the performance of our printing and newspaper publishing companies in Africa has improved, after some difficult years.

Export Confirming and Broking

The international financing operations of Balfour Williamson did well against exceptionally high interest costs for all major international currencies and the increasing strength of sterling.

John Holt's export confirming with West Africa has improved in line with the upturn in the economies of the countries concerned. After a few difficult years of import restrictions, the future looks promising once more.

Our cotton broking firm handled approximately 34,000 tonnes in a quiet market.

Property

We are continuing to dispose of residential properties in England, whilst retaining, through our wholly owned subsidiaries, London City and Westcliff and AVP Properties, a portfolio of good quality industrial and commercial properties.

Department Stores

Lonrho Limited has a £75 million investment in the House of Fraser, just under 30 per cent. of the total issued share capital—there are no other major shareholders. House of Fraser owns Harrods, Debenhams, John Debenhams, John Barker and other fine department stores. Shareholders perhaps know that we are not happy with some recent House of Fraser Board appointments. On 28th January, 1981 we announced that we would be making an offer for the balance of the issued ordinary shares at 150p per share.



Wines, Spirits and Beers

After an extensive promotion and marketing exercise in the United

Kingdom, volume sales of Whyte and Mackay whisky increased nearly 40 per cent. to reach nearly eight million litres for the year.

At the vineyards, the size and quality of the 1979 vintage enabled your Company's Chateau estates in the Bordeaux region—Rausan-Segla (2nd cru classe), Smith-Haut-LaFitte, La Garde, de la Tour and Olivier—to increase sales by 66 per cent. The shippers Louis Eschenauer had to contend with a fall in overseas demand, but the French wine operation altogether attained its highest ever profit level.

The Group's Pepsi-Cola plant in Kano, in this its first full year, sold nearly 2.8 million cases, making it the largest Pepsi bottler in Nigeria; capacity is being increased in 1981.

We have also for many years been bottlers for Coca-Cola in Zambia.

In the United Kingdom the Ashe & Nephew off-licence chain continued to grow, with shops exceeding 300 by November, 1980 and turnover for the year rising by £7 million to £41 million, bringing an increase in staff to 2,382.

Engineering, Steel and Manufacturing

In Zimbabwe the profitability of our engineering and manufacturing companies improved. W. Dahmer and Zambesi Coachworks, who are two of the country's leading bus, truck and coachbuilders, are projecting a healthy increase in sales for the forthcoming year.



The Dwangwa Sugar Factory in Malawi

The engineering industry in the United Kingdom suffered two thirteen week strikes by the engineers and steel workers, which naturally meant major disruption of work in hand at your Company's plants.

At Hadfields of Sheffield steelmaking suffered substantially, which is disappointing; however, the engineering and steel processing companies still contributed to profits. Lightfoot Refrigeration had a particularly good year.

In common with all domestic furniture manufacturers, Homeworthy experienced a downturn. It is now concentrating its operations in its modern Sunderland factory. The Emerald and Pland companies, volume manufacturers of a wide range of stainless steel sink tops, traded successfully, as did Peter J. Hopkinson, plumbing factors.

Sheer Pride produced reasonable results and is developing new products for its range of office furniture.

Pipeline

After the Independence of Zimbabwe it became a priority to recommission our 180 mile pipeline connecting the refinery at Umtali in Zimbabwe with the port of Beira in Mozambique. The pipeline and its pumping stations have remained idle for 16 years.

Our team of engineers began work on pressure testing the pipe in September, 1980. The major part of the pipeline has been proved to be in good order, although a portion will need to be replaced where it crosses the Pungwe marshes.

The line was designed for pumping either crude oil or refined products, and, until such time as the refinery is on-stream, it will pump refined products from Beira to Umtali. Our breach of contract claims against Shell and BP continue in arbitration.

Conclusion

Many companies and projects are not particularized in this condensed review, nor can I name all the able and enthusiastic people whose services the Group is fortunate to have. With their support, we intend to look forward to continued growth.

I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking them, and saying how much pleasure it gives the Lonrho Group as a whole to offer a satisfactory year's results to the shareholders.

Yours sincerely,
Tim Rowland

The seventy-second Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Limited will be held at the Great Room, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1. on Thursday 26th March 1981, at 12 noon.

LONRHO

Lonrho Limited, 138 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BL

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's review contained in the 1980 Report and Accounts which will be published later this month. Copies will be available from The Secretary, Lonrho Limited, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 28. Dealings End, Today. \$ Contango Day, Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 16
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

<p> <i>Ex dividend, a Ex sell, f Forecast dividend, c Corrected price, i interim payment passed, f Price at suspension, Dividend and yield exclude a special dividend, b Bid for company, s Pre-buyer liquidate, f Forecast earnings, p E capital distribution, r Ex rights, a Ex swap or share split, Tax free, y Price adjusted for late dealings. . . . No significant data.</i> </p>	
<p> RECENT ISSUES </p>	
<p> <i>Allied London Group 5 1/8% Ex Cap 1999 (2)</i> </p>	<p> <i>Closing Price</i> </p>
<p> <i>Bell A. 9 1/8% Conv 1999-2001</i> </p>	<p> <i>1104 1/8</i> </p>
<p> <i>Chrysler Water 9 1/8% Red Ref 1985 (7)</i> </p>	<p> <i>126 3/4</i> </p>
<p> <i>Dunbar Group 21 1/8% Ord 1980 (1)</i> </p>	<p> <i>420 1/2</i> </p>
<p> <i>Essex Aquilina Water 9 1/4% Red Ref 1985 (1)</i> </p>	<p> <i>210 1/8</i> </p>
<p> <i>Essex Wastewater Water 9 1/4% Red Ref 1980 (1)</i> </p>	<p> <i>210 1/8</i> </p>
<p> <i>Exxon Water 9 1/8% Red Ref 1985 (7)</i> </p>	<p> <i>140 1/8</i> </p>
<p> <i>Exxonquer 12 1/4% Ex Cap 1985 (1571 g)</i> </p>	<p> <i>640 1/4</i> </p>
<p> <i>Exxonquer 12 1/4% A 1986 (1)</i> </p>	<p> <i>151 1/4</i> </p>
<p> <i>Exxonquer 12 1/4% B 1999 (1)</i> </p>	<p> <i>120 1/4</i> </p>
<p> <i>First National Bank of New York 10000-95</i> </p>	<p> <i>10000-95</i> </p>
<p> <i>New Tokyo Inv Trust 6 1/2% Ord</i> </p>	<p> <i>113-1</i> </p>
<p> <i>Portin 9 1/8% Conv 1994-2000 (1)</i> </p>	<p> <i>118 1/8</i> </p>
<p> <i>Treasury 11 1/8% 1988 A (7)</i> </p>	<p> <i>150-1/4</i> </p>
<p> <i>Treasury 11 1/8% 2001-2007 A (1)</i> </p>	<p> <i>150 1/4</i> </p>
<p> RIGHTS ISSUES </p>	<p> <i>Latest date of</i> </p>
<p> <i>Norcor 80s</i> </p>	<p> <i>Mar 27 14 pm^{end}</i> </p>
<p> <i>Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend.</i> </p>	
<p> <i>f Issued by tender, b Wtd paid, a 280 paid b, c 20 paid, f Fully paid, s 240 paid, d 220 paid.</i> </p>	

هكذا من الأصل

PERSONAL CHOICE



Maurice Reeves: The Journal of Bridget Hitler (BBC 2, 9.00)

See Hitler materialise out of clouds at Liverpool's Lime Street Station. See him sip at his father's portrait. See him drive his niece to suicide. See him pelted by beer cans in the restaurant at BBC Television Centre. Try as I might, I cannot avoid using the sensational language of the film posters to give you a flavour of Beryl Bainbridge's and Philip Saville's sensational play *The Journal of Bridget Hitler* (BBC 2, 9.00). Sensational not only in content, but in style, and it should need the rest of this column to itemize the technical tricks—part cinema, part television; part brilliant, part showy; part illuminating, part obfuscating—resorted to in Philip Saville's TV film about the making of a TV film. As it will be endlessly discussed, you would be wise not to miss it.

I am not too happy about *The Walls of Jericho* (BBC 1, 8.00). BBC Scotland's serial about those doctored women who, in the last century, campaigned to be admitted to the medical faculty at Edinburgh University. In general, the characterization has been water-thin. Luanushya Greer's writing is no more than functional, and the time shifts are bafflingly abrupt. The plus to set against the minus is the performance of Sara Kestelman as Sophia Jex-Blake, the woman who inserts steel into her fellow fighters' corsets. Miss Kestelman puts fire into lines which are dully written. A few more performances like hers and we would begin to feel that the walls of Jericho really were cracking.

With no surprise at all, I learn that Clare Francis, the brave yachtswoman, has been given the MC's job in tonight's edition of *Friday Night*... *Saturday Morning* (BBC 2, 11.35). I am only astonished it has taken so long. She has beauty, a ready wit, a relaxed manner, a wide range of interests, and no distracting mannerisms. If she is as good with interviewees as she has been with interviewers, there is absolutely no reason why she should not be set for a highly successful new career.

The performance of Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* by the Berlin Philharmonic under Von Karajan (Radio 3, 8.25) is the one given at last year's Salzburg Whitsun Festival. Earlier (7.30), we hear the Mozart Divertimento in D major K354. Earlier still, on Radio 3 (12.15), the BBC Northern Orchestra under Bryden Thomas play the Sibelius No 4 and (at 1.20) Arnold's sixth symphony... Clare Lawson Dick has made a fine job of abridging Boswell's *London Journal 1762-63* (Radio 3, 10.30 pm) and Gary Bond is making an equally good job of reading it.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (STEREO); (BLACK AND WHITE); (1) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dayalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools. Colleges. Trefort. 9.25 am. 9.30 am. 9.35 am. 9.40 am. 9.45 am. 9.50 am. 9.55 am. 10.00 am. 10.05 am. 10.10 am. 10.15 am. 10.20 am. 10.25 am. 10.30 am. 10.35 am. 10.40 am. 10.45 am. 10.50 am. 10.55 am. 11.00 am. 11.05 am. 11.10 am. 11.15 am. 11.20 am. 11.25 am. 11.30 am. 11.35 am. 11.40 am. 11.45 am. 11.50 am. 11.55 am. 12.00 pm. 12.05 pm. 12.10 pm. 12.15 pm. 12.20 pm. 12.25 pm. 12.30 pm. 12.35 pm. 12.40 pm. 12.45 pm. 12.50 pm. 12.55 pm. 1.00 pm. 1.05 pm. 1.10 pm. 1.15 pm. 1.20 pm. 1.25 pm. 1.30 pm. 1.35 pm. 1.40 pm. 1.45 pm. 1.50 pm. 1.55 pm. 2.00 pm. 2.05 pm. 2.10 pm. 2.15 pm. 2.20 pm. 2.25 pm. 2.30 pm. 2.35 pm. 2.40 pm. 2.45 pm. 2.50 pm. 2.55 pm. 3.00 pm. 3.05 pm. 3.10 pm. 3.15 pm. 3.20 pm. 3.25 pm. 3.30 pm. 3.35 pm. 3.40 pm. 3.45 pm. 3.50 pm. 3.55 pm. 4.00 pm. 4.05 pm. 4.10 pm. 4.15 pm. 4.20 pm. 4.25 pm. 4.30 pm. 4.35 pm. 4.40 pm. 4.45 pm. 4.50 pm. 4.55 pm. 5.00 pm. 5.05 pm. 5.10 pm. 5.15 pm. 5.20 pm. 5.25 pm. 5.30 pm. 5.35 pm. 5.40 pm. 5.45 pm. 5.50 pm. 5.55 pm. 6.00 pm. 6.05 pm. 6.10 pm. 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